Miscellany

International Atomic Agency

Delegates from eighty-two nations agreed in October on terms for the establishment of an international agency to advance the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Originally proposed by President Eisenhower in an address before the United Nations General Assembly in December 1953, the organization was more fully defined in a document drafted early in 1956 by a twelve-nation committee which included representatives from the US and the USSR. In September the draft statute was submitted for approval to an 82-nation conference which met at the UN Headquarters in New York. The Agency will officially come into being after the document has been ratified by at least eighteen nations. Its headquarters site will tentatively be located in Vienna.

As accepted by the unanimous vote of the conference members, the proposed International Atomic Energy Agency will be governed by a board of at least eight member nations that will report to an advisory body consisting of representatives from all participating states. The Agency will control a pool of equipment and fissionable materials contributed by nations in a position to do so. Materials from the pool will then be available for loan to the "have not" member states for use in approved atomic energy projects. The Agency is empowered to send inspection teams into recipient countries to guarantee that borrowed materials will not be diverted into military channels.

An initial contribution of 11 000 pounds of U-235, plus as much additional material as all other nations contribute until 1960, has already been pledged to the Agency by the United States. Great Britain and the USSR are also expected to pledge contributions of material.

Awards

Unesco's Kalinga Prize, awarded annually to a science writer selected by an international jury, has been presented this year to George Gamow, professor of physics at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo. He was honored at a brief ceremony held October 12 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, where the prize was presented by Director General Luther Evans of Unesco in recognition of contributions "to the wider public knowledge and understanding of science" made by Professor Gamow through his popular writings on science. These have included a number of articles and the following books: Mr. Tompkins in Wonderland, Mr.