C.P.(45) 286

15TH NOVEMBER, 1945

CABINET

ATOMIC ENERGY

Memorandum by the Lord President of the Council

1. I conveyed to the Prime Minister the points raised in our discussion in Cabinet on 15th November (C.M.(45) 53rd Meeting, Minute 3).

2. On the first point the Prime Minister took the view that the Commission proposed in paragraph 7 of the announcement would not be the appropriate body to consider the effect of the veto provisions in the United Nations Charter on any proposals for an international agreement for the control of atomic energy.

3. As regards the apparent inconsistency between paragraphs 3 and 6 of the announcement, the Prime Minister's view was that there was no real inconsistency, since the safeguards suggested in paragraphs 6 and 7 were dependent on the development of confidence and co-operation among all nations. He also felt that it was unnecessary to alter the last sentence of paragraph 6, since the effective enforceable safeguards against the use of atomic energy for destructive purposes were set out in paragraph 7.

4. The Prime Minister asked me to inform the Cabinet that, while he realised that the statement was capable of improvement in certain respects and while he appreciated the suggestions which had been made by the Cabinet, he did not feel that he would be justified in attempting to secure at that late stage verbal changes in a document on which agreement had been reached only with great difficulty.

(Intd) H.M.

Privy Council Office, S.W.1.

15TH NOVEMBER, 1945.