

with control posts to be established in the territories of the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union, and in the Pacific Ocean area.

In reply to the Soviet proposal, a Four-Power statement on nuclear tests was tabled in the Sub-Committee on July 2. The Western statement welcomed the acceptance by the Soviet Union "of the requirement of inspection posts with appropriate scientific instruments, equipment, and facilities, to be set up for the purposes of control and detection of nuclear tests." It accepted the Soviet plan in principle, subject to precise agreement on its duration and timing, on the installation of the necessary controls, and on the relationship of this measure to the other provisions of a first stage agreement, including initial reductions in armed forces and the cessation of production of fissionable materials for weapons purposes. It further proposed that a group of experts should meet to proceed with the design of the inspection system, while the Sub-Committee itself continued its discussions of the relationship between the suspension of tests and other measures of disarmament.

In further discussions of nuclear disarmament, the Western representatives indicated their support for the United States proposal to cease production of fissionable materials for weapons purposes. They also expressed their willingness to agree to a formula involving the conditional renunciation of the use of nuclear weapons. In these discussions the representative of the Soviet Union continued to insist on his Government's proposals of April 30.

Discussions of conventional disarmament indicated general agreement with the United States proposal for reductions in armed forces in three stages to 2.5, 2.1 and 1.7 million men for the United States and the Soviet Union. In informing the Sub-Committee of their acceptance of a reduction by stages, the United Kingdom and French representatives stated that their own forces could also be reduced in three stages to 750,000, 700,000 and 650,000 respectively. While the Soviet representative appeared willing to accept the proposed levels in principle, he asked on several occasions for a clarification of the conditions, particularly with regard to political settlements, which it would be necessary to meet before the second and third stages could be undertaken. The Western representatives replied that some progress toward political settlements would be necessary, but said that there should be agreement in principle before further details of such conditions were set forth.

All five powers also appeared willing to accept the United States method of reducing armaments by placing designated armaments in depots under international supervision within the territories of the depositing parties. For the second and third stages the Western powers expressed the view that it would be necessary to find a formula for relating armaments ceilings to reduced manpower levels. Although there was general agreement that there should be some reduction in military budgets, the Soviet Union continued to propose a general 15 per cent cut, while the Western powers indicated a preference for a method related to manpower and armaments reduction.

On the question of control the five powers appeared to be in accord that there should be a system of inspection to assist in safeguarding against surprise attack. Such a system would include both aerial photographic inspection and ground observation posts. The four Western powers stated, however, that the