

represents a serious threat to the peace and security of peoples, for even the slightest carelessness may have fatal consequences for the peoples. Apart from this, such activities on the part of the United States cannot but lead, in the natural course of events, to counter-measures by the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Government therefore proposes that the question of abolishing military bases in foreign territory should be examined and that it should first be agreed which such bases can be abolished within one or two years.

6. In its statement of 17 November 1956 the Soviet Union proposed that the armed forces of the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and France stationed in the territory of Germany should be reduced by one-third as compared with the levels of those armed forces obtaining on 31 December 1956. The Soviet Union believes that such a reduction would do much to ease international tension, and especially to improve the situation in Europe, and thus to facilitate the solution of the problem of disarmament.

7. The Soviet Government considers that an agreement to reduce the armed forces of the United States, the United Kingdom and France stationed in the territory of the NATO countries and the armed forces of the Soviet Union stationed in the territory of the Warsaw Treaty countries would be of great significance in lessening international tension. The size of the reductions in the armed forces of those countries could be determined in the course of subsequent negotiations.

8. In its statement of 17 November 1956, the Soviet Government proposed that consideration should be given to the question of employing aerial photography within the area of Europe in which the principal armed forces of the North Atlantic bloc and of the Warsaw Treaty countries are stationed, to a depth of 800 kilometres east and west of the demarcation line between the aforementioned armed forces, provided that the States concerned give their consent. In proposing this area for aerial photographic operations the Soviet Union proceeded on the principle that the line separating the armed forces of the North Atlantic bloc from those of the Warsaw Treaty countries follows the demarcation line in Germany and then the western frontiers of Czechoslovakia.

The representative of the United States of America in the Sub-Committee of the United Nations Disarmament Commission proposed the use of aerial photography in Europe, in a sector bounded to the west by longitude 5° E., to the east by longitude 30° E. and to the south by latitude 45° N. If the area of aerial photography is determined in this way, the median line is moved from the demarcation line in Germany and the western frontiers of Czechoslovakia into Poland—in other words, it is moved arbitrarily to the east. This plan for aerial inspection in Europe covers only a small part of the territory of the North Atlantic Treaty countries, and a substantial proportion of that of the Warsaw Treaty countries. It is true that the northern part of this area includes the territory of Norway but, as is known, the principal NATO forces are not stationed in the territory of that country.

The Soviet Union is, nevertheless, prepared to agree to aerial reconnaissance being carried out within the sector of Europe proposed by the United States, but with the proviso that the line bisecting the aerial photographic sector should run near the demarcation line in Germany, and that in the north the sector proposed by the United States should not extend beyond the parallel passing