

## II POLITICAL AND SECURITY

### Disarmament<sup>1</sup>

At the conclusion of the debate on disarmament at the eleventh session of the General Assembly, it was agreed among the sponsors of the various substantive draft resolutions (including a proposal sponsored jointly by Canada, Japan and Norway calling for the registration of nuclear weapons tests), that none should be pressed to a vote. In their stead, a purely procedural resolution was adopted on February 14 which, *inter alia*, requested the Disarmament Commission to reconvene its Sub-Committee at an early date, and recommended that the Sub-Committee consider certain proposals which had been put forward at the eleventh session, together with the views which had been expressed during the debate.

#### Meetings of the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission

The Sub-Committee, which consists of Canada, France, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union, reconvened on March 18, and held a total of 71 meetings between that date and its adjournment on September 6. During the session, in addition to proposals and working papers on specific subjects which were tabled jointly or individually by the four Western powers and by the Soviet Union, comprehensive plans for a first stage of disarmament were proposed by each side. Memoranda submitted on invitation by certain states not members of the Sub-Committee (India, Japan, Norway and Yugoslavia) were also discussed. On April 30, the Soviet Representative, Mr. V. Zorin, tabled a plan for partial disarmament, which was based to a large extent on the Soviet proposals of November 17, 1956. Among the measures called for under the Soviet plans were: a two stage reduction of armed forces to 1-1.5 million men for the USSR and the United States, and 650,000 for the United Kingdom and France, without regard to political conditions; reduction of conventional armaments and military budgets by 15 per cent in the first stage; an immediate cessation or suspension of nuclear tests, independently of other measures of disarmament, an unconditional renunciation of the use of nuclear weapons, together with the assumption of an obligation "to make every effort to conclude an agreement" on their complete prohibition, cessation of production, and elimination from national stockpiles; progressive liquidation of military bases in foreign territory; a one-third cut in the forces of the four major powers in Germany, and a considerable reduction of their forces in the NATO and Warsaw Pact countries; a system of international control, including posts in defined areas at ports, railway junctions and highways during the first stage, and at airfields during the second stage in conjunction with measures for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons; and aerial inspection in a zone in central Europe and in an Asian-North American zone comprising approximately equal areas in eastern Siberia and in the United States west of the Mississippi.

During the four months after the presentation of the Soviet proposals, while the comprehensive Western plan was being prepared, the Sub-Committee negotiations consisted mainly of expositions of the principles of the

<sup>1</sup>A more detailed analysis of disarmament negotiations during 1957 is to be found in the White Paper on this subject, entitled *Disarmament Negotiations, 1957* (Ottawa, The Queen's Printer, 1958)