

The General Assembly met on November 14 to begin its consideration of the report of the First Committee on the question of disarmament. Besides the draft resolutions recommended by the Committee, the General Assembly had before it a proposal co-sponsored by Canada and Japan calling for the expansion of the Disarmament Commission by ten members<sup>(28)</sup>. India and the Soviet Union, in addition, reintroduced proposals which had been rejected by the Committee.

The first of the draft resolutions recommended to the Assembly—the Belgian proposal for “collective action to inform and enlighten the peoples of the world” of the dangers of the armaments race and the effects of modern weapons<sup>(29)</sup>—was passed on November 14 by a vote of seventy-one in favour (including Canada) and nine against (Soviet bloc), with one abstention.

The second, the 24-power draft resolution discussed above<sup>(30)</sup>, was also put to a vote on November 14. Speaking shortly before the vote, the Canadian representative expressed his expectation that “the Committee’s recommendation can speedily be adopted”. The Delegation of Canada, he continued,

strongly recommends the overwhelming adoption of the resolution. . . . We co-sponsored this draft resolution in the First Committee and we feel that it represents a realistic and practicable first step towards disarmament. It consists of disarmament proposals which are feasible and acceptable in the present world situation without any political or other considerations. It is not a one-sided document. Although the U.S.S.R. has not supported this draft resolution, we cannot see that it contains anything inconsistent with the legitimate security interests of the Soviet Union.

In the ensuing discussion, a number of delegations lent their support to the 24-power draft resolution. The Soviet representative again insisted, to the contrary, that it would “drive the disarmament problem further into an inextricable deadlock” and that it could not “serve as a basis for negotiations”. The resolution was then put to a vote and adopted by fifty-seven votes in favour (including Canada) and nine against (Soviet bloc), with fourteen absences.

The reintroduced Indian proposal on the question of nuclear tests<sup>(31)</sup>, was rejected on November 19 by twenty-four votes in favour and thirty-four against (including Canada), with twenty absences.

An amendment to the Canadian-Japanese proposal on the expansion of the Disarmament Commission was introduced by India, Sweden and Yugoslavia which called for a further addition of four members to the ten already proposed as additions to the Commission<sup>(32)</sup>. The amendment was accepted by Canada and Japan, which were then joined by its three sponsors and Paraguay as co-sponsors of a revised resolution calling for the expansion of the Commission by fourteen members<sup>(33)</sup>. Speaking as a co-sponsor of the resolution, the Canadian representative, Mr. W. A. Nesbitt, M.P., emphasized the hope of the Canadian Delegation that it would receive wide support. He spoke, in part, as follows:

“We now have before us a draft resolution on the expansion of the Disarmament Commission which Canada is pleased to co-sponsor in association with the delegations of Japan, India, Paraguay, Sweden and Yugoslavia. . . .

<sup>(28)</sup> UN Document A/L.231. The ten additional members proposed for 1953 were Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Czechoslovakia, India, Italy, Tunisia and Yugoslavia.

<sup>(29)</sup> See above, pages 13 and 20. Final text, as adopted, (UN Document A/RES/1149(XII) at Annex V.

<sup>(30)</sup> *Ibid*, pages 15 and 20. Final text, as adopted, (UN Document (A/RES/1148(XII) at Annex VI.

<sup>(31)</sup> *Ibid*, pages 14 and 20.

<sup>(32)</sup> UN Document A/L.234. For 1953 the four additional members proposed were Egypt, Mexico, Norway and Poland.

<sup>(33)</sup> UN Document A/L.231/Rev. 1 and Add. 1.