

weapons. Subsequently, however, the Soviet Delegation reverted, for all practical purposes, to the Vyshinsky proposals submitted at the ninth session. In the meantime, the Western position had been re-affirmed by the re-introduction on March 8 of the Anglo-French proposals in the form of a draft resolution sponsored by the four Western members of the sub-committee, including Canada. The Western programme called for the preliminary acceptance by all states of the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons *except in defence against aggression*. It also provided for major reductions in armed forces and conventional armaments accompanied by specific measures of nuclear disarmament leading to the total prohibition of weapons of mass destruction. This programme would be carried out in three stages and would be supervised by a control organ with powers adequate to guarantee its effective observance at each stage.

The reversion to a more co-operative attitude by the Soviet Delegation led the Western powers to supplement their basic proposals by tabling a number of additions, the most significant of which related to the levels of armed forces and the principles of international control. France and the United Kingdom submitted a memorandum proposing that the armed forces levels for China, the United States and the U.S.S.R. should be fixed at 1 to 1.5 million men each, while France and the United Kingdom would each have 750,000 men. On the question of control, the four Western members suggested a number of principles which they thought should govern the functions, powers and rights of the international control organ. Finally, in order to answer the main Soviet criticism that the Western plan provided for the total prohibition of nuclear weapons only when all reductions in armaments and armed forces had been completed, the United Kingdom and France tabled compromise proposals under which the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons would become effective after 75 per cent of the reductions in armed forces and conventional armaments had taken place. The elimination of stockpiles of nuclear weapons, and the last quarter of agreed reductions, would begin simultaneously, both processes to be completed within the time limit prescribed. France and the United Kingdom made it clear however, that their compromise suggestion was conditional on agreement being reached on substantial reductions in the armed forces and conventional armaments of the great powers and on the establishment of effective international control.

The Canadian Delegation indicated that the Canadian authorities looked at the Anglo-French suggestions concerning the levels of armed forces for the major powers as reasonable within the framework of a general disarmament convention. While agreeing that the levels of armed forces for other states, including Canada, should be considerably lower than the levels fixed for the major powers, the Canadian Government considered that exact figures in this respect should be worked out at the disarmament conference. Canada's final commitment on the question of levels could only be given in the context of a comprehensive programme in which smaller powers would participate. The Canadian Delegation reiterated its support for the basic aim underlying the Anglo-French timetable concerning the prohibition of nuclear weapons, but pointed out that there could be no question of agreeing to the prohibition of these weapons unless adequate inspection were both scientifically and technically feasible and accepted by all parties to a general disarmament convention.

After having reacted negatively to the Western proposals and compromise suggestions, the Soviet Union tabled on May 10, 1955, elaborate proposals which dealt not only with disarmament but also with a number of political issues outstanding between the East and the West, e.g. the German problem. On disarmament proper, the May 10 paper appeared at first to