

resolution as a manoeuvre intended to divert attention from the disarmament resolution passed by the General Assembly. Accordingly, the majority in the Commission devoted a large number of informal meetings between February and August, 1949, to the preparation of a plan for the exchange and verification of information on conventional armaments. The initiative in the matter was largely taken by the delegations of Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States which, by the end of May, had agreed upon a composite working paper setting forth proposals for the census and verification of the armaments and armed forces of member states. At this stage the proposals contained in the working paper were outlined in two sections. The first section elaborated on the aims of the resolution passed by the Third Session of the General Assembly and described the nature, scope and limitations of the proposals. These proposals were to be capable of implementation under existing political conditions, but were not designed to provide, of themselves, the safeguards essential to security. As a prerequisite to implementation they were to be accepted by not less than two-thirds of the member states, including all the permanent members of the Security Council. Section two listed the categories of armed forces and armaments on which information was to be supplied to an international control organ and outlined the verification procedures (inspections, spot-checks and cross-checks) provided.

The Soviet Union's insistence, however, on linking the regulation of conventional armaments with the control of atomic energy made it clear that the possibility of reaching agreement on effective plans for disarmament was virtually non-existent. Nevertheless, the Commission felt itself obliged to continue its efforts to devise a practicable framework for disarmament in accordance with the General Assembly's instructions. Late in June 1949 the United States Delegation presented a supplementary paper containing suggestions for the establishment of an international organ of control. This draft was incorporated as section three of the majority working paper, which the French Delegation agreed to sponsor in the Working Committee of the Commission and later in the Commission itself. On August 1, the composite proposal introduced by the French Delegation was approved by the Commission, and on October 18, after some discussion in the Security Council, it was vetoed by the U.S.S.R. The Council, however, forwarded the Commission's proposal to the General Assembly, together with its own Second Progress Report covering its activities for the period July 16, 1947 to August 12, 1948.

When the Fourth Session of the General Assembly discussed the subject of conventional armaments, the familiar arguments were reiterated on both sides. The debate centred on a joint draft proposal submitted by the Representatives of France and Norway and on a second draft resolution put forward by the U.S.S.R. The latter simply recommended that member states "should submit information on both armed forces and conventional armaments, and information on atomic weapons", and was rejected by a vote of 6 in favour, 39 against, with 9 abstentions. The Franco-Norwegian proposal provided that the General Assembly should approve the plans formulated by the Commission for Conventional Armaments for the exchange of information on armed forces and the verification thereof; and recommended that the Security Council, despite the lack of unanimity among its permanent members, should continue its study of the regulation and reduction of conventional armaments and armed forces through the agency of the CCA. This resolution, which stemmed directly from the informal agreement reached in the Commission