

General Assembly itself should nominate a few countries to assist the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission in its search for tangible solutions to the problems of disarmament.

In a draft resolution dated September 25⁽⁵⁾, India therefore proposed that both the Disarmament Commission and its Sub-Committee should be enlarged. The states to be added were not specified in the case of either body.

A further proposal on the future conduct of disarmament negotiations under United Nations auspices was submitted by the Soviet Union in a letter to the Secretary-General dated October 27⁽⁶⁾. Arguing that the failure to reach agreement in the Sub-Committee had to some extent been caused by its restricted membership and the secrecy surrounding its proceedings, the Soviet Union proposed that the Disarmament Commission and its Sub-Committee should be dissolved, and replaced by a "permanent disarmament commission" composed of all members of the United Nations, which would meet publicly to consider "all proposals of disarmament submitted to the United Nations", and to prepare recommendations for the General Assembly.

(b) *Collective Action to Inform and Enlighten the Peoples of the World as to the Dangers of the Armaments Race, and Particularly as to the Destructive Effects of Modern Weapons.*

On August 13 Belgium requested the inclusion of the item in the agenda, and deposited a draft resolution⁽⁷⁾ with the Secretary-General. In his statement in the general debate, Mr. Larock, the Belgian Foreign Minister, gave the following summary of the aims and provisions of the Belgian resolution:

The present session of the General Assembly should decide that a collective information action must be undertaken immediately and that a plan should be submitted to the Assembly for approval during the next regular session. I propose that to this end the Assembly should request the Disarmament Commission, on the one hand, and the Secretary-General on the other, to take up in co-operation the following two tasks: first, the compilation of a body of essential information designed to be disseminated in all countries; secondly, the establishment of programmes and the determination of practical means for such dissemination.

(c) *Discontinuance Under International Control of Tests of Atomic and Hydrogen Weapons*

This item was included on the agenda at the request of the Soviet Union⁽⁸⁾ and was made sub-item (d) under the question of disarmament. In the explanatory memorandum accompanying the request, the view was expressed that, due to the increasingly serious danger to mankind resulting from nuclear tests and public concern therewith,

"...the Soviet Government considers it essential to detach the question of discontinuing atomic and hydrogen weapons tests from the disarmament programme as a whole and to settle it forthwith as a separate issue, without linking it to agreement on other aspects of disarmament". When debate began in the First Committee three draft resolutions had already been tabled which dealt, either wholly or mainly, with the question of nuclear tests:

- (i) A draft resolution tabled by Japan⁽⁹⁾, which, in addition to other recommendations concerning disarmament, called upon member states

⁽⁵⁾ UN Document A/C.1/L.177

⁽⁶⁾ UN Document A/C.1/797

⁽⁷⁾ UN Document A/3630

⁽⁸⁾ UN Document A/3874/Rev. 1

⁽⁹⁾ UN Document A/C.1/L.174