

defined to include atomic explosives, weapons involving radio-active materials, lethal chemical and biological weapons, and any weapons developed in the future which have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to these weapons. The resolution containing this definition was approved by the Commission and later by the parent body, the Security Council.

FORMULATION OF POSITIONS OF THE POWERS ON CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS

The Commission for Conventional Armaments next undertook the consideration of general principles which should govern the regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces. The majority in the Commission were of the opinion that adequate conditions of security must first be established to enable disarmament to proceed safely and equitably. It is interesting to note the similarity in this position and the position of the French government in the discussions on disarmament in the League of Nations which I have previously mentioned. - Security should precede disarmament. -

Starting with this premise the majority of the Commission considered that the following prior conditions were necessary:

- (1) The completion of agreements under Article 43 of the Charter which called for the placing of armed forces at the disposal of the Security Council.
- (2) The establishment of a system of international control over atomic energy.
- (3) The conclusion of peace settlements with Germany and Japan.

The majority of the members of the Commission emphasized the need to establish an adequate system of international inspection and control, which would give assurance to all nations that disarmament would be on an equitable basis and that no state would be placed in a position which would give it an advantage over the others.

The representative of the U.S.S.R. took the position that an immediate across-the-board reduction of armaments and armed forces would in itself be "an essential condition for the creation of a sense of international confidence and security". He argued that the position of the majority was contrary to the resolution of the General Assembly of December 14, 1946. Concerning the question of international inspection and control, the Soviet representative contended that any control body must be established within the framework of the Security Council. This has been taken to mean by the majority of the Commission that the veto could be exercised in the Security Council by its permanent members; this raised the doubt that it might be used at some stage in their own interest by the U.S.S.R., who had advocated this condition, to prevent the effective inspection and control which is regarded as essential in any real disarmament system.

U.S.S.R. PROPOSAL FOR DISARMAMENT MADE IN PARIS

At the first part of the Third Session of the General Assembly in Paris in the fall of 1948, Mr. Vishinsky, the representative of the U.S.S.R., proposed that three steps be taken immediately towards general disarmament:

- (1) The reduction by one-third during one year of the present strength of the land, naval and air forces