

to disagree to all proposals introduced by Western countries and to insist that discussion proceed on the basis of the earlier Soviet disarmament proposals. He also failed to give any indication that the Soviet Union would accept effective measures of international inspection and control. The Western powers considered that without such measures any disarmament proposals were meaningless.

Notwithstanding this lack of progress, when the seventh session of the General Assembly discussed the Commission's report in March 1953 both the Western powers and the U.S.S.R. recognized the necessity of continuing its work. In Committee, the Soviet Delegation introduced a resolution which, while recommending the continuance of the Commission, accused France, the United Kingdom and the United States of repeatedly attempting to "substitute for the question of a reduction of armaments that of illegally obtaining intelligence reports on the armaments of individual states." This resolution was rejected by the Committee, which adopted instead by a vote of 50 to 5 (Soviet bloc), with 5 abstentions another resolution re-affirming the Commission's terms of reference and requesting it to continue its work. At the suggestion of Egypt, Iraq, Syria and Yemen, indirect reference to the destructive attitude of the U.S.S.R. in the Commission had been deleted.

At this time Premier Malenkov made his well-known statement that there were no issues between the Soviet Union and the United States which could not be "decided by peaceful means." The Soviet Delegation did not reintroduce its original proposal in plenary session but tabled two amendments to the 14-power resolution. The first of these, which dropped any specific commendation of the Disarmament Commission's work, was accepted by the Western powers. The second proposed that the terms of reference of the Commission contained in General Assembly Resolution 502 (VI) not be re-affirmed. The United Kingdom and the United States opposed this amendment as showing a lack of confidence in the Commission's work and it was rejected by a vote of 10 in favour, 33 against (including Canada) and 13 abstentions. The 14-power resolution as amended was adopted by 52 in favour (including Canada), 5 against (Soviet bloc) and 3 abstentions, (Argentina, Burma and Indonesia).

Premier Malenkov's "peace statement", the milder tone of the debate in plenary session, and the fact that the Soviet Delegation did not reintroduce its original resolution, have been regarded by some as major concessions. But there has been no real evidence of any change in the basic position of the U.S.S.R. on disarmament and, in particular, no sign of readiness to accept effective international control and inspection.