

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 53/48 REPORT OF THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

Statement given on November 10, 1953, by the Canadian Representative, Mr. D.M. Johnson, in the First Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, on Agenda Item 23 - Regulations, limitations and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments.

Note: The text of the resolution passed by the First Committee on November 18, 1953, on this subject is included at the end of the Canadian statement.

The distinguished representative of the Soviet Union covered a good deal of ground in his statement to the Committee last Friday, November 6. He gave us a full account of the position of his government, particularly as regards the vital questions of prohibition of atomic weapons and their control. He also referred, as have others in this debate, to certain paragraphs of the Soviet resolution which is to be considered under our next item.

As regards the 14-power resolution which my delegation is co-sponsoring, I was glad to hear Mr. Vyshinsky say that his government would consider it very carefully. I earnestly hope that his government will be able to support our resolution in its entirety, despite the differences between our approach to the problem of disarmament and that of the Soviet Union.

I am encouraged to hope that the Soviet Delegation will be able to give our resolution its support by two facts. In the first place it cannot be denied that we have tabled a mild and at the same time forward-looking resolution. In the second place the Soviet Delegation voted for almost every part of the Assembly's resolution No. 704 of March 17 last. Specifically, the Soviet Delegation voted for that part of the resolution which required the Disarmament Commission "to continue its work for the development by the United Nations of comprehensive and co-ordinated plans providing for:

- (a) The regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and armaments;
- (b) The elimination and prohibition of all major weapons including bacteriological, adaptable to mass destruction;
- (c) The effective international control of atomic energy to ensure the prohibition of atomic weapons and the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes only; the whole programme to be carried out under effective international control in such a way that no state would have cause to fear