

It is clear that the majority of the members of the Commission have been convinced that the proposals evolved in these three reports do provide the essential basis for the establishment of an effective system of international control of atomic energy. It is, in our view, appropriate that those who have been associated with developing these proposals through months of work should now submit the results of their efforts to the test of world opinion in a wider forum — namely in the General Assembly itself.

If the work of the Atomic Energy Commission is now to be suspended however, the challenge to the peoples of the world still remains to find a solution to the problem of the control of this new force, potentially so destructive to mankind if left uncontrolled. The essential facts of atomic energy are set out clearly in the various reports of the Commission. The great majority of the States represented on the Commission have been able to draw the same conclusions from these facts. Perhaps those who now disagree with us may yet come to share our view, and my Government earnestly hopes that this will be the case.

(b) The Question of Disarmament

Perhaps the most widely discussed resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its session in the autumn of 1946 related to the regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces. I believe that it may be fairly said that few delegations to that session of the Assembly were more concerned in the drafting of this resolution than was the Canadian delegation. As a result of this resolution, the Security Council, February 3, 1947, took action to set up a Commission for Conventional Armaments which was to be a parallel body to the Atomic Energy Commission and to the Military Staff Committee.

The terms of reference of this Commission excluded atomic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, as these had been referred to the Atomic Energy Commission by the General Assembly and in the view of all members other than the Soviet it was most important that there should be no duplication of effort or responsibility. The term "conventional armaments" is held to include all other weapons and the Commission is also empowered to give consideration to the reduction of national armed forces. As in the case of the Atomic Energy Commission, however, the Commission for Conventional Armaments has so far reached no agreement on the matters which have been referred to it. It is not necessary to repeat all the reasons for this disagreement, but merely to say that the disagreements which have developed between the Soviet Union and the western world have their reflection in similar disagreements in the Atomic Energy Commission and in the Commission for Conventional Armaments. On the questions of drawing up essential safeguards necessary to ensure that the regulation of armaments is universally observed, and of establishing preliminary conditions of international confidence necessary to disarmament, the same disagreements between the Soviet Union and the West in the field of atomic energy have constantly repeated themselves in the Commission for Conventional Armaments. The position of the Canadian Government on these matters, as expressed in the Commission for Conventional Armaments, March 8, 1948, is that no agreement on the reduction of armaments and armed forces is likely to develop until conditions can be established which will make it unnecessary for nations to depend on national armaments solely for their security. We thus believe that the implementation of Article 43 of the Charter — in regard to the establishment of international armed forces — is an essential step which must first be taken if we are to reach an effective system for the regulation and reduction of national armaments and armed forces.

(c) The Implementation of Article 43 of the Charter

I would like to say a few more words, Mr. Chairman, in regard to Article 43 of the Charter, by which all members of the United Nations