

## II POLITICAL AND SECURITY

### Disarmament

Because of Soviet refusal to participate in the work of the Disarmament Commission either in its original composition or as expanded by resolution 1150 (XII) of November 19, 1957, disarmament proceedings in 1958, apart from the General Assembly discussions and a Security Council debate on a related question, took place either outside the framework of the United Nations disarmament machinery entirely or with only an indirect and administrative connection.

The main series of exchanges have been: (a) correspondence from January to July between the Western powers and the Soviet Union concerning a possible summit conference, for the agenda of which both sides suggested certain disarmament questions; (b) technical discussions in Geneva in July and August to study ways of detecting violations of a possible agreement on the suspension of nuclear tests; (c) political discussions in Geneva, begun on October 31 and still continuing, among the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union, to negotiate an agreement for the discontinuance of nuclear weapons tests and the actual establishment of an international control system; (d) the conference of experts in Geneva during November and December to study possible measures which might be helpful in preventing surprise attack; and (e) the disarmament debates in the General Assembly.

#### Summit Conference Correspondence

A Soviet communication on December 10, 1957, proposed for a summit conference agenda: (a) a ban on the use of nuclear weapons; (b) the suspension of nuclear tests for a period of 2-3 years; (c) an "atom-free" zone in central Europe; (d) after the establishment of confidence: (i) a cut in armed forces; (ii) complete prohibition of nuclear weapons; (iii) withdrawal of foreign troops from the NATO and Warsaw Pact countries, and (iv) the establishment of a system of collective security. On March 31 the Soviet Union announced the unilateral cessation of nuclear tests and called upon the United States and United Kingdom to follow suit; if they failed to do so, the Soviet Union would consider itself free to resume tests. In a memo of May 6 the Soviet views on the agenda items were elaborated. In addition to the above topics, the memo dealt with the problems of outer space and safeguards against surprise attack.

In the summit conference correspondence the Western powers adhered essentially to the four-power proposals of August 29, 1957\*. However, they showed readiness to deal with certain aspects of these proposals at the summit and to that extent departed from the concept of a "package". In a three-power memo to Moscow on May 28 concerning the summit agenda, the disarmament topics included were: (a) measures to control production of fissionable materials for weapons and to reduce existing military stocks of

\*See *Canada and the United Nations*, 1957 p. 6