

The Soviet resolution covers a lot of ground, a good deal of which we have been over before in previous Assemblies. It speaks of the desirability of concluding a five-power peace pact, of reducing the present armed forces of these five great powers by one-third during 1950, that is during the next three months - a transparently insincere and meaningless proposal. The resolution also urges the Assembly to declare itself "in favour of the unconditional prohibition of atomic weapons and the establishment of strict international control for the unconditional implementation of this prohibition".

My delegation is first of all interested in establishing what precisely is meant by these far-flung proposals, and we think that there is one very simple and direct test of the sincerity of those who have made them. There is one clear question which, if it could be answered by the Soviet Delegate, would go far to resolve our doubts. What does he mean when he says he is in favour of strict international control of atomic energy, or, indeed, of armaments generally? He used that phrase - strict international control - several times in the course of his very interesting statement to the General Assembly in introducing the resolution. He spoke at some length to the last session of the Assembly on the same subject. The Canadian delegation have studied his remarks with the care which they deserve, no doubt other delegations also, but we are quite unable to determine whether the Soviet view of international control differs in the slightest degree from what has been previously put forward by the Soviet representative, and which have been shown to be quite inadequate and unsatisfactory. Therefore, before the Soviet resolution on disarmament comes to a vote at this Assembly, we have the right to ask for a clarification of the Soviet concept of international inspection and control as applied to the problem of atomic energy - and indeed to disarmament measures generally.

One method of securing such clarification, a very simple method would be to introduce an amendment to the Soviet resolution by including the following words at the appropriate place:

"By 'strict international control' is understood a system in which the inspection rights of the international control authority would include:

- (a) the right of free access at all times to every atomic energy installation or plant of any kind whatever; and
- (b) the right to search for undeclared atomic energy facilities wherever there can be reasonable grounds for believing, in the opinion of the international control authority, that they may exist."

Now an amendment to the Soviet resolution, I suggest would act as the touchstone of its sincerity. If the Soviet delegation indicate by the readiness to accept it, that atomic energy and disarmament negotiations might profitably be resumed then I think that we should try once again to negotiate an agreement in this field that would be effective and would give us something more on which to base our common security than empty phrases or hypocritical gestures.