

hope of my Delegation, as it must be the hope of others, that this work may be successful, and that by it we may be able to avoid wasting on armaments those economic and financial resources which could be used to lift the standards of living of peoples everywhere in the world, especially in the under-developed areas of the world.

The draft resolution submitted to this Committee by the Delegation of France, the United Kingdom and the United States seems to us a good resolution for the purposes which we all have in mind, and my Delegation is prepared to support it. We do not, of course, insist that this particular formulation is the only possible one that could be devised. We are anxious to hear, and will seriously study, any other sincere suggestions that may be put forward.

We attach the greatest possible importance to setting up without delay the simplified machinery for negotiation on all aspects of disarmament which is envisaged in the report of the Committee of Twelve. We support the proposal that the functions of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Conventional Armaments Commission should be merged, and that a new single organ, with the same membership should be responsible for the formulation of effective proposals and controls in both inter-related fields. My Delegation also supports the general principles enunciated by Mr. Acheson in the General Assembly and again in this Committee the other day as a guide to the lines along which we believe real progress can be made.

Until recently, my own Delegation had expected that the members of this Committee would set up at this session of the General Assembly the necessary co-ordinated machinery for disarmament negotiation, both on atomic and conventional weapons, in a relatively simple resolution such as that recommended to us in the report of the Committee of Twelve.

The Delegations of France, the United Kingdom and the United States have now suggested that after crystallizing and agreeing on a set of general principles to guide the work of this new Disarmament Commission, we should embody these principles not under a separate resolution but in the terms of reference of the new merged Commission itself. And that seems to us a satisfactory procedure, if not the only possible one. In any case, whatever course the Committee prefers on this question of form, we strongly support the proposal that such a set of guiding principles be worked out and adopted at this session.

My Delegation is also attracted by the idea of finding certain general criteria for the maximum size of armed forces - say a percentage of population, with a ceiling for very large nations - and for the maximum percentage of national production which any nation can devote to equipping its forces - again with a ceiling for the larger nations.

Regarding the establishment of the new Disarmament Commission, whose function it will be to bring together, and prepare the way for coordinated progress in both the atomic and conventional weapons fields, it is obviously desirable I think that its terms of reference should not be so rigid as to prejudice its consideration of any serious, sincere and practicable proposals, which may be put forward from any quarter, and within the agreed principles.