

Although the emphasis of the military debate was on conventional forces, the problems raised by nuclear weapons were also discussed. The Secretary-General, Mr. Stikker, reminded the delegates that the political decision as to the employment of nuclear weapons remained principally with the United States and, to a lesser extent, with Great Britain. In the future it might lie with France also. There was no doubt that, in case of an all-out nuclear attack against the Alliance, the reply would be immediate, with the use of all weapons available. The problem under discussion was what to do in doubtful situations where some margin of time might be available for the use of the traditional decision-making processes of the NATO political authorities. The Secretary-General suggested that a certain amount of international control had already been established where two countries exercised a dual control over the use of nuclear weapons. He wondered if this approach could be developed for the whole alliance by the use of a majority of weighted votes. The Military Committee of the Conference thought the matter required careful study, and it was agreed to follow it up in the Committee, with the object of bringing it before the Eighth Conference in 1962.

Propaganda Warfare

Because there was general agreement that the Berlin crisis was only part of a continuing East-West confrontation, attention was given to ways of preventing the Communists from restricting the public debate to the Berlin question. On the initiative of the French delegation, the Conference recommended that Western countries use all possible means to inform the world public and, in particular, the public of the U.S.S.R. of "the infamy of the enslavement of 20 nations and 140 million people by Soviet and Communist colonialism", and recommended that the free nations seek the inclusion of the problem of the "captive nations" on the agenda of every appropriate international conference. As means to this end, member governments were urged to press for full reciprocity behind the Iron Curtain in the free circulation of information, such as the Communists enjoy in the free world, and to link their broadcasting facilities into an international radio network that could reach even the farthest corners of the Soviet Union.

Atlantic Unity

The delegates supported efforts to develop a wider awareness of Atlantic unity and urged the recognition of the vital role of such non-governmental organizations as the Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Atlantic Institute in the fields of public education and opinion. The idea of an Atlantic Institute had originated with the NATO Parliamentarians and the Conference therefore welcomed the creation of the Institute this year and the appointment of Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge as its Director General.

Another project of the Parliamentarians that received new attention was the Atlantic Convention of NATO Nations, which would be convened in Paris in January 1962. The Conference recalled that, as early as 1957, it had recom-