

to separate the work of the two Commissions a definition of "weapons of mass destruction" including atomic weapons was established.

The Commission for Conventional Armaments then undertook consideration of the general principles which would govern the regulations and reduction of armaments and armed forces. The majority of the members of the Commission took the view that adequate conditions of security must be established to enable disarmament to proceed safely and equitably.

Starting with the premise that disarmament by nations requires an atmosphere of international confidence and security, the following were the principal prior conditions which the majority of the Commission thought necessary to disarmament:-

- (a) The completion of agreements under Article 43 of the Charter which would place armed forces at the disposal of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- (b) The establishment of a system of international control of atomic energy.
- (c) The conclusion of peace settlements with Germany and Japan.

The majority of the Commission also laid particular emphasis on the need to establish an adequate system of international inspection and control, which would give assurance to all states that disarmament would be on an equitable basis and that no state could take advantage of the disarmament of others.

The representative of the U.S.S.R., on the other hand, took the position that the immediate reduction of armaments and armed forces would in itself be "an essential condition for the creation of a sense of international confidence and security." The representative of the U.S.S.R. contended that the argument that conditions of international confidence and security must precede disarmament, was contrary to the General Assembly's resolution of December 14, 1946. The position of the Soviet representative on the question of international inspection and control has been that any control body must be established within the framework of the Security Council. This has been taken to mean by the majority of the Commission, that the veto exercised by the permanent members of the Security Council can apply at some stage to prevent effective inspection and control, which is so essential to a workable disarmament system.

The question of disarmament was debated at length at the third session of the General Assembly. The Soviet Union proposed that the following three steps be taken immediately towards general disarmament:-

- "(1) The reduction by one-third during one year of the present strength of the land, naval and air forces of the five permanent members of the Security Council.
- (2) The prohibition of atomic weapons intended for "aims of aggression".
- (3) The establishment within the framework of the Security Council of an international control body for the purpose of supervision and control over the implementation of the above two measures."