

Communist Party of the Soviet Union would affect not only the internal policy of the Soviet Union. The business of the session was completed on July 16 with the adoption of a procedural resolution which requested the sub-committee to consider all proposals which had been submitted to the Commission.

Shortly after the opening of the eleventh session of the General Assembly, the Soviet Union published, on November 17, proposals calling for: (1) a reduction within two years of the armed forces in the Soviet Union, the United States and China to between 1,000,000 and 1,500,000 men, those of France and the United Kingdom to 650,000—as a first step, ceilings for these groups would be set at 2,500,000 and 750,000 respectively, with a corresponding reduction of armaments; (2) a complete prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons within the same period, to begin with the abolition of nuclear test explosions; (3) a reduction by one-third during 1957 of the forces of the great powers stationed in Germany; (4) a considerable reduction of the forces of the great powers stationed in Europe in the NATO and Warsaw Pact countries; (5) the liquidation of foreign military bases within two years; (6) a corresponding reduction of military expenditures; and (7) the establishment of strict international control over the above obligations. In addition to repeating its proposal for a system of ground control posts to guard against surprise attack, the Soviet Union expressed its readiness to consider the question of employing aerial photography within the area in Europe in which the principal armed forces of the NATO and Warsaw Treaty countries are stationed, to a depth of 800 kilometres east and west of the demarcation line.

The Western powers deplored the aggressive context in which the Soviet proposals had been presented, and the fact that proposals for disarmament on the part of the Soviet Union had come at a time when that country was employing brutal armed force in Hungary. However, they recognized that at least in as far as the principle of aerial inspection had been accepted, the Soviet Union had moved closer to the Western position on the nature of the control which would be necessary for effective disarmament.

It was, then, with a new set of Soviet proposals before them, as well as those previously put forward during 1956 by the Soviet Union and the Western powers, that the First (Political and Security) Committee of the United Nations General Assembly met on January 14, 1957 to consider questions of disarmament. The debate was on the whole free from acrimony, and saw a large measure of the delegates' interest centred upon the Soviet proposals of November 17, and on a new United States plan which their Representative indicated would be submitted to the next session of the sub-committee.

The six points emphasized in the United States proposals were to the following effect: (1) after an agreed date all future production of fissionable material should be used or stockpiled for non-weapons purposes under international supervision; (2) when effective control of future production of fissionable materials exists, nuclear test explosions should be limited and eventually eliminated—meanwhile, a system of advance registration and limited international observation of tests might be adopted; (3) conventional armed forces should be reduced progressively and under inspection, in the