

and solemn undertaking not to use nuclear weapons under any circumstances. Although, as indicated in the Anglo-French proposals, the Western powers are ready to renounce the use of nuclear weapons except in defence against aggression, they cannot accept in the present state of mistrust and hostility, an unconditional prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, bearing in mind the overwhelming superiority of the Soviet Union and its satellites in the field of conventional armaments and armed forces. Even assuming a general reduction of armaments and armed forces at levels satisfactory to the West, the free world cannot afford to deprive itself of its best means of protection until the Soviet Union clarifies its position on the central problem of inspection. The Soviet Delegate consistently refused to answer the questions put to him on this central problem during the London talks.

In spite of the failure to reach agreement, the London talks should not be regarded as a final breakdown of the negotiations on disarmament. The gap between the positions of the East and the West has undoubtedly been narrowed during the lengthy discussions of recent years and it is fair to suggest that it may have been narrowed still more as a result of the sub-committee discussions in London. The report of the sub-committee will be considered by the Disarmament Commission which will in turn submit its own report to the General Assembly and to the Security Council not later than September 1, 1954, in accordance with the General Assembly resolution of November 28, 1953.

Eisenhower Proposals for the Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy

In a speech before the General Assembly on December 8, 1953, President Eisenhower put forward the proposal that, to the extent permitted by elementary prudence, the governments principally concerned with the development of atomic energy make joint contributions from their stockpiles of fissionable materials to an international atomic energy agency set up under the aegis of the United Nations. The Agency would use this fissionable material for peaceful purposes only, experts being mobilized to advise methods whereby atomic energy would be applied for agriculture, medicine, electric power, etc. The President's proposal was presented as a measure designed to bring about East-West co-operation on one aspect of atomic energy, thus paving the way for a general settlement of all the problems of atomic energy including the prohibition of atomic weapons. Repeated efforts by the United Nations to solve this problem since 1946 have ended in a deadlock between the Western powers and the U.S.S.R. The stumbling block in East-West negotiations has been the question of international control of atomic energy, including inspection of atomic facilities, with a view to ensuring its use for peaceful purposes only. As pointed out by President Eisenhower in his speech to the Assembly, his proposal had "the great virtue that it can be undertaken without irritations and mutual suspicions incident to any attempt to set up a completely acceptable system of world wide inspection and control".