

The Soviet Union's insistence, however, on linking the regulation of conventional armaments with the control of atomic energy made it clear that the possibility of reaching agreement on effective plans for disarmament was virtually non-existent. Nevertheless, the Commission felt itself obliged to continue its efforts to devise a practicable framework for disarmament in accordance with the General Assembly's instructions. Late in June 1949 the United States Delegation presented a supplementary paper containing suggestions for the establishment of an international organ of control. This draft was incorporated as section three of the majority working paper, which the French Delegation agreed to sponsor in the Working Committee of the Commission and later in the Commission itself. On August 1, the composite proposal introduced by the French Delegation was approved by the Commission, and on October 18, after some discussion in the Security Council, it was vetoed by the U.S.S.R. The Council, however, forwarded the Commission's proposal to the General Assembly, together with its own Second Progress Report covering its activities for the period July 16, 1947 to August 12, 1948.

When the Fourth Session of the General Assembly discussed the subject of conventional armaments, the familiar arguments were reiterated on both sides. The debate centred on a joint draft proposal submitted by the Representatives of France and Norway and on a second draft resolution put forward by the U.S.S.R. The latter simply recommended that member states "should submit information on both armed forces and conventional armaments, and information on atomic weapons", and was rejected by a vote of 6 in favour, 39 against, with 9 abstentions. The Franco-Norwegian proposal provided that the General Assembly should approve the plans formulated by the Commission for Conventional Armaments for the exchange of information on armed forces and the verification thereof; and recommended that the Security Council, despite the lack of unanimity among its permanent members, should continue its study of the regulation and reduction of conventional armaments and armed forces through the agency of the CCA. This resolution, which stemmed directly from the informal agreement reached in the Commission by the delegations of Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States, was adopted by the General Assembly on December 5 by a vote of 45 in favour, 5 against, with 5 abstentions.

Debate on the Essentials of Peace

At the opening of the Fourth Session of the Assembly, the newly elected President, General Carlos P. Romulo, in a short statement thanking the delegates who had supported his candidature, expressed the hope that the session would earn for itself the title, "the Peace Assembly". In the President's opinion, the Assembly should press the advantage of the improved state of international affairs since the Third Session in Paris and "move boldly forward" to attain the goal so anxiously sought by all nations—the elimination of war as a means of securing political ends and the establishment of a world order in which all powers, great and small, would seek to settle their differences by peaceful means. The labours in the Assembly, he said, would not have been in vain if they could help mankind advance