

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

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DISARMAMENT

Text of a statement on November 4, 1954, in a plenary meeting of the ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, by the Acting Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, Mr. Paul Martin, on agenda items 20 and 68 - Regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments: Report of the Disarmament Commission; and Conclusion of an international convention (treaty) on the reduction of armaments and the prohibition of atomic, hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction.

Note: The text of a five-power resolution on this subject (U.N. Doc. A/C.1/752/Rev.2) which was adopted unanimously by the First Committee on October 27, 1954 and in plenary session on November 4, 1954, is given in Statements and Speeches No. 54/46.

The adoption of a unanimous resolution in the United Nations on a major political issue is in itself a significant event. If, as I believe and fully expect, the General Assembly now confirms the unanimous vote of the First Committee of October 27 on the draft resolution on disarmament (Document A/C.1/754) we shall all have good reason for satisfaction -- satisfaction at having secured the agreement of all members of the United Nations on a resolution which will provide an agreed procedure and an agreed framework for the negotiations in the Five-Power Sub-Committee which is to be re-established by the Disarmament Commission.

This resolution is no longer the Canadian resolution nor the Five-Power resolution -- it is the First Committee's Resolution and will shortly I hope be the Assembly's Resolution. As such it would not be appropriate for me to try to evaluate its importance or review the efforts of many delegations during the past weeks which led to the measure of agreement this resolution now represents. If I may, however, I should like to express the thanks and appreciation of my Delegation for the ready response and co-operation which our initiative was accorded, in the first stage by France, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union and later all members of the First Committee and to all for the cooperation which ultimately was given to our discussions.

The adoption of this resolution is but one stage in a continuing process -- a process which began with the very first resolution of the General Assembly on January 24, 1946 -- also adopted unanimously -- establishing an Atomic Energy Commission, the partial forerunner of the Disarmament Commission.