

other states contributing to the United Nations forces in Korea. The Soviet Representative nevertheless returned repeatedly to the subject and was only restrained when the Canadian Representative, who was chairman of the Commission during the month of March, ruled that consideration of these charges was not within the terms of reference of the Commission. This ruling was challenged by the Soviet Representative but was upheld by all other members of the Commission.

In spite of the lack of substantial progress, the Commission was able to submit on June 1 its first report to the Security Council in accordance with the instructions of the General Assembly. This interim report, which was adopted by 11 votes to 1 (the U.S.S.R.), describes the Commission's programme of work and lists the proposals so far submitted to it. The main proposals are as follows:

- (a) A working paper submitted by the United States entitled "Proposals for the Progressive and Continuing Disclosure and Verification of Armed Forces", which suggests a procedure whereby disclosure of information could be carried out in five stages; the information disclosed would be verified by an international control organ which would have to report the satisfactory completion of each stage before the next stage could be embarked upon; the same organ would maintain a continuing check, at all stages, on the information already disclosed.
- (b) A proposal submitted by the United States entitled "Essential Principles for a Disarmament Programme", which states in an expanded form the principles embodied in the Assembly resolution establishing the Commission (see Appendix 5).
- (c) A working paper submitted by France, the United Kingdom and the United States on "Proposals for Fixing the Numerical Limitation of all Armed Forces".

The first two proposals have received general support from members of the Commission but useful discussion of them has been hampered by their out-of-hand rejection by the Soviet Representative. By far the most important, however, is the third proposal which puts forward a "working formula" for establishing numerical ceilings for all armed forces with a view to avoiding a disequilibrium of power dangerous to international peace and security. It tentatively suggests that the ceilings for the United States, the U.S.S.R. and China should be the same and should be between one million and one and a half million; and that the ceilings for the United Kingdom and France should also be the same and should be between 700 and 800 thousand. For all other states having substantial armed forces it suggests that ceilings should be agreed on which would normally be "less than one per cent of the population" and "less than current levels except in very special circumstances", and which should be established with a view to avoiding a disequilibrium of power dangerous to international peace and security in any particular area of the world. This tripartite proposal was introduced to the Commission by the United Kingdom Representative, who pointed out that it would entail a much greater cut (about 50 per cent) in the armed forces of the major powers than would the Soviet proposal for a one-third reduction and would, moreover, apply (unlike the Soviet proposal) to all states having substantial armed forces.