

United Nations from the use of nuclear weapons except in defence against aggression. They recommend that the Disarmament Treaty should include an immediate and explicit acceptance of this prohibition by all signatory states, pending the total prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons as proposed in the outline for a comprehensive disarmament programme contained in the proposals.

The Anglo-French proposals finally suggest a comprehensive time-table covering both conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction including hydrogen and atomic bombs.

The United States working paper contains detailed proposals concerning the international control agency which must be established if any disarmament programme is to be effective. These proposals outline the powers and functions of the international agency in implementing the various phases of a disarmament programme covering both nuclear and conventional weapons.

The Western proposals submitted in the sub-committee constitute an earnest attempt to meet criticism of their previous positions by the Soviet Union. The main complaint of the Soviet Union against the United Nations plan — sometimes called the majority plan — for the control of atomic energy has been that it postponed until the final stage the prohibition and elimination of atomic weapons. The U.S.S.R. has argued that the Western powers were attempting to bring about international control including inspection within Soviet territory at the very beginning although the prohibition of atomic weapons which came at the last stage might never be reached. The new proposals dispose of this contention by providing for an immediate prohibition at the very first stage of the use of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction except in defence against aggression. This is to be followed by limitation of expenditures on these weapons and the prohibition of their manufacture at intermediate stages, while the destruction of stockpiles of nuclear weapons and their conversion to peaceful uses would come at the last stage. Moreover, the international control organ would come into being progressively and would grow up with its task. There would be no question of international inspectors exercising all the rights granted to them under the international agreement until the final stage in the disarmament programme was reached. The new proposals also dispose of the Soviet argument that the Western powers are only interested in securing information on the armed forces of the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Delegate adopted an altogether negative attitude towards the Western proposals throughout the London talks. Moreover in contrast to the new character of the Western proposals, the Soviet paper presented to the sub-committee repeated the same old proposals for an unconditional prohibition of weapons of mass destruction and for an arbitrary one-third reduction in the armed forces of the major powers. The U.S.S.R. at the same time reiterated its proposals for the dismantling of military bases in foreign territories and for the prohibition of propaganda, which had been rejected by the Assembly at its eighth session. Furthermore, the Soviet Delegate insisted that no progress could be made in disarmament discussions until the Western powers signed an unconditional