

I might point out, however, that although the Working Committee and the Commission have been unable to resolve the differences, the Commission, upon the suggestion of the representative of Canada, did initiate the preparation of some useful documentation which may prove invaluable in the consultations which are about to take place between the six sponsoring powers of the General Assembly's resolution of 1946.

PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE COMMISSION FOR CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS

On February 8, of this year, the Security Council commenced discussion on the General Assembly's resolution of November 19, 1948, the main points of which I have already outlined in this paper. At this meeting the Soviet delegate reintroduced in almost identical terms the Soviet resolution rejected in Paris. That resolution, you will recall, sought a reduction by one-third of the armaments and armed forces of the five permanent members of the Security Council, and called for the Atomic Energy Commission to proceed with the preparation of two draft conventions, one on the prohibition of atomic weapons and the other for the control of atomic energy, both conventions to come into effect simultaneously. On February 10, the United States submitted a resolution suggesting the transmittal of the General Assembly resolution of November 19, 1948 to the Commission for Conventional Armaments. The resolution of the U.S.S.R. did not receive acceptance in the Security Council. The United States resolution was adopted.

The Commission for Conventional Armaments next met on February 15, to consider the General Assembly resolution, and on February 25, the United States-sponsored resolution submitting the General Assembly resolution of November 19, 1948 to the Working Committee of the Commission for Conventional Armaments was adopted by nine votes to two.

More recently, in May, the delegation of France submitted a paper in the Working Committee of the Commission for Conventional Armaments outlining a method of carrying out the tasks allotted to the Commission by the General Assembly's resolution of November last.

In June the French representative presented a third section to this paper. This section deals with proposals for the organization of the control organ which would be set up to collect, check and publish information on the effectives and conventional armaments of member states. These proposals of the French delegation have received the support of a majority of the members of the Working Committee, which adopted them on July 18 by a vote of 8 to 3. Both papers were rejected in their entirety by the representatives of the Ukrainian S.S.R. and U.S.S.R. Egypt also voted against their adoption.

The French proposals, as I have indicated, are divided into three sections, the first section dealing with the general considerations on which the proposals have been based. This section defines the conditions which in the opinion of the French delegation must be met if an effective system for the receipt and verification of information on conventional armaments can be put into force. The second section deals with the scope of the census of armed forces and armaments which should be included in the plan and defines the nature of the forces and the equipment to be verified and the manner in which such verification would be carried out. It is made clear in the first two sections of the paper that "as between disclosure of information and adequate verification, the requirements of verification must be paramount". It is also made clear that the success of the plan would depend upon "the greatest possible freedom of movement and access to data fully depicting the level of conventional armaments and effectives of each state" being made available to the control organ.