

criticising the proposals of other members of the Commission and has declined to submit alternative suggestions. Another reason is that the Soviet Representative, by repeatedly alleging that United Nations forces in Korea are waging bacteriological warfare, has distracted the Commission from its proper functions. These charges, which have been much exploited by the communist press, were denied categorically by the United States Representative and were also refuted by the spokesmen of 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"¹, 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"², 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"³.

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

¹Document DC/C2/1 of April 5.

²Document DC/C1/1 of April 24.

³Document DC/10 of May 28.