

the armaments of States has made vulnerable practically every point on the globe.

There can now be no doubt that the outbreak of a new war in which atomic and hydrogen weapons were used would visit extremely grave consequences on the States taking part in it, and especially on those with a high population density and a high concentration of industry. The existence in the arsenals of States of weapons of this type brings into especial prominence the question of banning atomic and hydrogen weapons.

The Governments of States, and more especially of those which possess atomic and hydrogen weapons and therefore bear special responsibility for the preservation of peace, are bound to heed the peoples' demand to end the armaments race and remove the threat of atomic war.

The continuance of the armaments race has had serious economic consequences. The ever-growing military preparations of States absorb huge resources and lay a heavy burden upon their peoples.

The United Nations Charter imposes an obligation on States to settle their international disputes by peaceful means, and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force. Consequently the existence of unsettled international problems or disputes cannot be invoked to justify States in maintaining large armed forces and carrying on an armaments race. Propaganda for a new war, accompanied by incitement to enmity and hatred between peoples and pursued in certain States in violation of a General Assembly resolution, is likewise impermissible and in conflict with the United Nations Charter.

The principle of peaceful coexistence and peaceful competition between States with different social, economic and political systems corresponds to the vital interests of all countries, great and small.

The Soviet Government believes that the great Powers ought to take without delay measures to decrease the existing tension in international relations and the danger due to the existence of huge armed forces and armaments, to the incessant armaments race, particularly in atomic and hydrogen weapons, and to the continuance of propaganda for a new war.

*Considering* that cessation of the armaments race will not only remove the danger of the outbreak of a new war but will also relieve the peoples of a heavy economic burden and enable the resources thus freed to be used to improve their welfare,

*Recognizing* the necessity of reaching an agreement on a comprehensive disarmament programme, including the complete and unconditional prohibition of the use and manufacture of atomic and hydrogen weapons and the destruction of stockpiles of those weapons, which would ensure that all production of atomic materials was used exclusively for peaceful purposes,

*Taking into account* that the Western Powers are not at present prepared to conclude an agreement on a comprehensive disarmament programme, and desiring to release the disarmament issue from its present deadlock.

*Considering also* that the implementation of partial measures as a first step in disarmament could contribute to the conclusion of an agreement on a comprehensive disarmament programme,