

posals regarding the regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces. On the same day a statement was issued by the Governments of France, the United Kingdom and the United States announcing that these three powers would sponsor the new proposals and indicating their general content. On November 8, in his opening statement in the general debate, Mr. Acheson discussed the nature of these proposals in greater detail and asked that an item be added to the agenda to provide for their consideration.

In the general debate Mr. Vishinsky attacked the tripartite proposals in a manner both scornful and frivolous. His remarks were not well received, and in a second speech he dealt with the plan more seriously and put forward counter-proposals for the Assembly's consideration. New items were added to the agenda to provide for both the tripartite and Soviet plans, which were referred to the Political Committee for consideration.

The tripartite plan recommended the replacement of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Commission for Conventional Armaments by a single "Arms Reduction Committee" under the Security Council. The new Commission would be charged with the task of preparing a treaty for the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments in accordance with certain general principles. In the first place, there should be progressive disclosure and verification on a continuing basis of all armed forces and all armaments, the adequacy and accuracy of the information disclosed being verified by a system of effective international inspection. The Commission should formulate general criteria for limiting the size of armed forces and the amount of national armaments, and should develop within these limits a system of mutually agreed national programmes relating to the armed forces and armaments that each country would maintain. The treaty should include provisions for the international control of atomic energy which would be no less effective than the plan previously approved by the majority of the members of the United Nations in ensuring the prohibition of atomic weapons and the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes only. Observance of the terms of the disarmament programme should be ensured by an adequate system of safeguards, to provide for the prompt detection of violations while causing the minimum degree of interference in the internal life of each country. The treaty could come into effect only when approved by all the powers of major military importance.

The Soviet proposals consisted of four points. Of these the first was the unconditional prohibition of atomic weapons, to be embodied in a convention and to be enforced under strict controls. The second requirement was a one-third reduction of their armed strength by the five major powers. The third requirement was the provision by all states of complete information concerning their armed forces within a month of the prohibition of atomic weapons and the reduction of armed strength by major powers. Finally, the plan included the establishment of an international control organ within the framework of the Security Council to implement these decisions.

Speaking in support of the Western proposals Mr. Eden referred to three new and important features: the suggestion that disarmament be approached by stages, beginning with the least important and working up to more important categories; the suggestion that definite criteria be worked out for limiting armaments in all countries; and the suggestion that atomic weapons be included in the general disarmament scheme. Mr. Vishinsky attacked the proposals on two main points: he said they made no provision for the unconditional prohibition of atomic weapons and he argued that the provision for the progressive disclosure of armaments and armed forces prior to any prohibition of such weapons or reduction of other armaments was putting the cart before the horse. Mr. Vishinsky made no serious effort to demonstrate that his proposals included any new provisions of importance, and his plan was attacked by the Western powers for this reason. They charged spe-