

This declaration was followed by a meeting of the foreign ministers of the United States, the United Kingdom and the U.S.S.R. in Moscow in December 1945, at which time the Washington proposals were endorsed. These three governments then invited Canada, China and France to join with them in sponsoring the proposal at the General Assembly. The United Nations Atomic Energy Commission was established by unanimous resolution at the first meeting of the General Assembly on 24 January 1946, in London.

In this resolution the terms of reference of the Commission were laid down. The Commission was instructed to enquire into all phases of the problem of atomic energy and to make recommendations in particular in regard to the following points:

- (1) The elimination from national armaments of atomic energy and all other weapons of mass destruction.
- (2) Exchange of basic scientific information.
- (3) Control to the extent necessary to ensure the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes; and
- (4) Provide effective safeguards by way of inspection and other means to protect complying states against the hazards of violations and evasions.

Before discussing what has been accomplished by this Commission in its three years of work, I would like to mention the steps which were taken at the same time looking to the control and regulation of the more orthodox weapons of war or, as they came to be called, "conventional armaments."

FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON REGULATION AND REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS, DECEMBER 14, 1946.

Together with the control of atomic energy the General Assembly was faced with the problem of the control of other armaments. This latter became one of the main issues at the Second Part of the First Session of the General Assembly held in New York in October of 1946. The discussions were initiated when the Soviet Union in the tradition established by the Czars introduced a resolution couched in general terms, calling for a general reduction in all categories of armaments. The issue was further complicated by the introduction by the U.S.S.R. of a resolution dealing with the presence in foreign countries (other than ex-enemy territories) of armed forces of member states of the United Nations. The debate on this matter in the Political Committee of the General Assembly immediately preceded the debate on disarmament and later the two issues became confused, and were only separated with difficulty. Finally two resolutions were passed by the General Assembly on 14 December 1946, one on the general regulation and reduction of armaments, and the other calling for the Security Council to determine the information which the member nations should furnish to their armed forces in order to implement the resolution on armaments. No one had expected that it would be possible for the General membership of the United Nations to agree so early in the life of the United Nations to take such an important first step towards general disarmament. The adoption of the resolution on the general regulation and reduction of armaments by unanimous vote therefore did much to restore confidence in the United Nations as an instrument of world peace and led to a feeling of optimism which later events have shown to be somewhat premature.