

tude on this problem. However, both in his opening speech during the Assembly general debate in the early part of the eighth session and during the discussion of the disarmament item later, the representative of the U.S.S.R. repeated his country's requests for the immediate unconditional outlawing of atomic weapons and for a one-third reduction in the armed forces of the permanent members of the Security Council. The majority of the countries members of the United Nations have up to now refused to accept the unconditional prohibition of atomic weapons before the establishment of effective international control of atomic energy and unless there are clear indications that the Soviet Union is ready to accept the implications of this control, including inspection of national territories. A one-third reduction of armed forces is equally unacceptable by the Western Powers in view of the present numerical superiority of the Soviet forces. By putting forward requests which have been repeatedly rejected in the past, Mr. Vyshinsky made it clear that the position of the Soviet Union on the question of disarmament remained unchanged, even though the Soviet Delegate did not vote against the Fourteen Power Resolution but merely abstained.

Chinese Nationalist Troops in Burma

On November 5, the joint draft resolution, co-sponsored by Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, Mexico, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, which postponed discussion of the Burmese item in the First Committee until a date not earlier than November 23, was adopted. This postponement was designed to allow time for the implementation of the plans of the Joint Military Committee in Bangkok for the evacuation of 2,000 Chinese troops from Burma.*

On November 27, 1953, the debate on the Burmese item was resumed. After statements by the Burmese, Chinese and United States representatives, the debate was recessed and the First Committee did not consider this item again until December 4.

On November 27 the First Committee had for consideration a joint draft resolution, co-sponsored by Australia, Canada, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, on the situation regarding the evacuation of the foreign forces from Burma. On December 1, Thailand and the United States submitted amendments to this eight-power draft resolution which were designed to give some United Nations recognition to the activities of the Joint Military Committee in Bangkok and to express appreciation of the efforts of third parties in the dispute. Burma was opposed to any mention of the Joint Military Committee, since it thought its hands would be tied in making any further direct approach to the United Nations. A satisfactory revised resolution, with Uruguay as an additional co-sponsor, was submitted to the First Committee on December 4 and Thailand and the United States agreed to withdraw their amendments. On the same date, the representative of the U.S.S.R. proposed an oral amendment to delete paragraph 3 of the revised nine-Power draft resolution which expresses appreciation for "the efforts of the United States and Thailand in striving for the evacuation of these forces". On December 4, the Committee rejected the U.S.S.R. amendment by a vote of 49 against (including Canada), 5 in favour (Soviet bloc), with 2 abstentions (Afghanistan, Syria). The Committee adopted the revised nine-Power draft resolution by 51 votes in favour (including Canada), none against, and 6 abstentions (Soviet bloc and Syria). The representative of China did not participate

* See "External Affairs", December 1953, pp. 344-345.