

Not only does the resolution set forth the four stages of general disarmament and establish four explicit principles and one implicit conclusion, it also puts the responsibility for speedily completing the next stage in the process of disarmament squarely on the shoulders of the Security Council. The Security Council is asked by the Assembly to "give prompt consideration" to working out the "practical measures" referred to in the second principle and the "practical and effective safeguards" referred to in the third principle. In their turn the Members of the U.N. are called upon to render every possible assistance to the Security Council in its work.

The task of securing unanimous agreement in the Assembly on a useful disarmament resolution was one of very great difficulty. The issues were complex in themselves and were further complicated by the introduction by the Soviet delegation of a resolution on the presence in foreign territories (other than ex-enemy territories) of armed forces of Members of the U.N. The debate on this in the Political Committee immediately preceded the debate on disarmament. Later the two issues became inextricably intertwined and the final result was the passage by the Assembly on December 14, 1946, of a resolution which merely called upon the Security Council to determine, as soon as possible, the information which the Members of the U.N. should be called upon to furnish in order to implement the disarmament resolution as soon as possible.

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A comparison of the final text of the disarmament resolution with the various preceding drafts, and a study of the Canadian proposals and amendments and of the speeches given in explanation of them, indicate the nature and significance of the contribution which Canada made to the disarmament discussions which took place during the second part of the First Session of the General Assembly.

On October 29, in the opening debate in the General Assembly, the chairman of the Canadian delegation expressed the concern of the Canadian delegation over the failure of the Security Council and the Military Staff Committee to make substantial progress towards a conclusion of the special agreements with Members of the U.N. required to make armed forces and other facilities available to the Security Council. He went on to say:

"It would be in the interest of all Members of the United Nations to see the Security Council equipped and ready in fact to enforce proper decisions for the maintenance of world peace and also to see serious consideration given to the reduction of national armaments so that the productive capacity of the world thus conserved may be used for improving the living conditions of all peoples."

Later in the day on which this statement was made, Mr. Molotov put the Soviet proposal for disarmament before the Assembly. This proposal, coming as it did from one of the two most heavily armed powers of the world, made it appear that immediate progress towards disarmament should be envisaged at once as a political possibility.