

of the Charter. The opposite view was that the Security Council, under Article 34, may investigate such disputes and any member, under Article 35, may bring these to the attention of the Security Council or of the Assembly.

## Disarmament

By Resolution 704 (VII) of April 8, 1953, the General Assembly had requested the Disarmament Commission to continue its work and to report to the eighth session. In the absence of new disarmament proposals, however, and bearing in mind the character of previous discussions in the Commission, there seemed to be a general feeling that the re-examination of the disarmament problem would not serve any useful purpose, at any rate before the conclusion of an armistice in Korea. In its third report, submitted after the conclusion of the armistice, the Commission expressed the hope that "recent international developments will create a more propitious atmosphere for reconsideration of the disarmament question" and recommended that its work be continued. This recommendation was endorsed in a draft resolution submitted by 14 countries (including Canada) at the eighth session, which simply requested the Disarmament Commission to continue its work and to report to the General Assembly and to the Security Council in September 1954.<sup>1</sup>

The Soviet Union did not see fit to accept this resolution. Instead the Soviet Delegate, Mr. Vyshinsky, indulged in familiar propaganda attacks during which he reiterated almost word for word proposals put forward during the four preceding years and consistently rejected by the Assembly. These proposals were repeated in Soviet amendments to the 14-power resolution and more forcibly in the Soviet resolution on "Measures to Avoid the Threat of a New World War and to Reduce Tensions in International Relations". They insisted once again on the immediate and unconditional prohibition of atomic, hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction to be followed by international agreement on the establishment of effective international control over the observance of this prohibition. They also called once more for an arbitrary one-third reduction in the armed forces of the major powers within one year. The latter proposal was, of course, unacceptable by the Western powers in view of the numerical superiority of the Soviet armed forces.

With regard to the immediate prohibition of nuclear weapons and the establishment of effective international control, Mr. Vyshinsky persistently refused to answer questions by the Western powers concerning the kind of control which the Soviet Union would accept. It is obvious that the Western powers cannot accept an unconditional prohibition of nuclear weapons until the intentions of the Soviet Union on this all-important question become clear.

In the face of the Soviet Delegate's refusal to accept the 14-power resolution, repeated efforts were made by a number of delegations and in particular the Asian and Arab delegations, to achieve unanimity by amending the 14-power resolution. In spite of these

<sup>1</sup>See *Canada and the United Nations 1952-53*, pp. 21-22.