

and to transmit them, together with other relevant documents, to the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Consideration of the disarmament item began in the First (Political and Security) Committee on October 10. In addition to the report of the Disarmament Commission, three topics had been scheduled for discussion; the expansion of the membership of the Commission and its Sub-Committee, which had been included at the request of India; a Belgian item calling for "collective action to inform and enlighten the peoples of the world" as to the dangers of the armaments race; and an item proposed by the Soviet Union on the question of discontinuing nuclear weapons tests. The Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, emphasized in his statement in the general debate that it was imperative to find some solution to the deadlock in disarmament discussions. In this connection, Canada continued to urge the adoption of the proposals put forward by the West, but did not wish to be inflexible about the Western plan. On the contrary, he continued, "... we must remain sensitive to every possibility of improving it". All nations had in common an interest in survival, which could not be protected unless every effort was made to ensure that scientific advances were used "to alleviate and not to increase human misery and destitution". The importance of this goal could not be exaggerated; indeed, he concluded, the stake was "the very survival of the human race".

Following a debate of almost four weeks in the First Committee, during which two of ten draft resolutions were recommended to the General Assembly for passage (of the remainder, four were defeated and four were not pressed to a vote), the question of disarmament was taken up in plenary session, beginning November 14.

The two resolutions which had been recommended by the First Committee were adopted by large majorities: a 24-power resolution based on the Western proposals of August 29 was passed by 56 votes in favour (including Canada) and 9 against (Soviet bloc), with 15 abstentions; and the Belgian proposal calling for a publicity campaign to inform the peoples of the world of the dangers of the armaments race was adopted by a vote of 71 in favour (including Canada) and 9 against (Soviet bloc), with one abstention. In addition, the General Assembly had before it an Indian proposal on the question of nuclear tests, which had been defeated in the First Committee, and which was subsequently rejected in plenary session; a draft resolution sponsored by Canada and Japan, calling for the expansion of the Disarmament Commission by ten members; and a Soviet draft resolution, which had also been defeated in the First Committee, proposing the replacement of the Disarmament Commission and its Sub-Committee by a permanent disarmament commission composed of all members of the United Nations.

During the consideration of the question of expanding the Disarmament Commission, an amendment to the Canadian-Japanese proposal was introduced by India, Sweden and Yugoslavia, which proposed a further addition of four members. The amendment was accepted by Canada and Japan, which were then joined by its three sponsors and Paraguay as co-sponsors of a revised resolution calling for the expansion of the Commission by fourteen members¹. Although it had been hoped that it would be possible to obtain unanimous support for the revised resolution, the Soviet Representative made it clear that his Government would not support it, and would not participate in future in the work of the Commission, if it were expanded as suggested in the six-power resolution. They would, however, be willing to support this

¹The 14 additional members for 1958 would be Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, India, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Tunisia, and Yugoslavia.