

Sponsorship -

Canada shared in co-sponsoring, in company with 13 other nations, the 14-power resolution on disarmament (agenda item 23) that was adopted by the First Committee on November 18, 1953. The sponsors were: Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Denmark, France, Greece, Lebanon, New Zealand, Pakistan, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States. Eleven of the sponsors are at present members of the Disarmament Commission, and the three others -- Brazil, New Zealand and Turkey--will join the Commission on January 1, 1953, replacing Chile, Greece and Pakistan.

Voting -

The resolution was adopted by the First Committee, by a vote of 54 in favour (including Canada) to none against, with 5 abstentions (the Soviet bloc countries). Text of the resolution as adopted in the First Committee is as follows (UN Press Release GA/PS/594 of Nov. 18, 1953):

Resolution -

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY;

REAFFIRMING the responsibility of the United Nations for considering the problem of disarmament and affirming the need of providing for

(A) the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and armaments;

(B) the elimination and prohibition of atomic, hydrogen and other types of weapons of mass destruction;

(C) the effective international control of atomic energy to insure the prohibition of atomic weapons and the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes only;

the whole programme to be carried out under effective international control and in such a way that no state would have cause to fear that its security was endangered;

BELIEVING that the continued development of weapons of mass destruction such as atomic and hydrogen bombs has given additional urgency to efforts to bring about effectively controlled disarmament throughout the world, as the existence of civilization itself may be at stake,

MINDFUL that progress in the settlement of existing international disputes and the resulting re-establishment of confidence are vital to the attainment of peace and disarmament and that efforts to reach agreement on a comprehensive and co-ordinated disarmament programme with adequate safeguards should be made concurrently with progress in the settlement of international disputes,

BELIEVING that progress in either field would contribute to progress in the other,

REALIZING that competition in the development of armaments and armed forces beyond what is necessary for the individual or collective security of member states in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations is not only economically unsound but is in