

which set out the responsibilities of the various organs of the United Nations in that regard. It is well to note the Charter closely defines the respective responsibilities of the General Assembly and the Security Council in regard to regulation and reduction of armaments and other subjects -- the Assembly has the legislative function and the duty and the authority to recommend -- the Security Council is the executive with the responsibility to evolve the operative procedures and methods, and it is intended to have the power to enforce where enforcement is needed, which might be after the processes of persuasion and agreement had been shown to be insufficient.

The role of the General Assembly in regard to arms limitation is given specifically in Article 11 of the Charter which authorizes the General Assembly to consider the general principles of co-operation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments, and to make recommendations in regard to such principles to the members of the United Nations or to the Security Council, or to both.

The Security Council on the other hand as an executive organ, is vested with "primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security" (Article 24) and under Article 26 it is given specific responsibility for formulating, with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee, plans to be submitted to the members of the United Nations for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments.

The authors of the United Nations Charter were acutely aware of the fact that moral authority alone was insufficient to enforce peace, and accordingly a whole chapter -- Chapter VII -- deals with the authority of the Security Council to enforce peace, and if necessary to achieve this by the use of military force. Under Article 43 members are obligated to make available to the Security Council armed forces, assistance and facilities, including rights of passage, necessary for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security. Article 47 establishes a Military Staff Committee with the defined role of advising and assisting the Security Council both for the military requirements to maintain the peace, the employment of forces placed at its disposal, and the regulation of armaments and possible disarmament. I have mentioned these portions of the United Nations Charter because they form the framework on which are based the present efforts to regulate and to reduce arms and armaments.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION OF JANUARY 24, 1946, CREATING THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

The impact of the discovery of the release of atomic energy and the manufacture of atomic weapons was felt by the world with the release of the first bombs at Nagasaki and Hiroshima. There are few people in the world today who are not aware of the terrible alternatives presented if agreement cannot be reached for the international control of atomic energy and the prohibition of atomic weapons.

The first step toward such an international agreement was made shortly after the termination of the war when the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada made a Declaration issued in Washington on November 15, 1945, which recognized the need for an international agreement and proposed, as a matter of great urgency, the setting up of a Commission under the United Nations which would study the problem and make recommendations for the international control of atomic energy.