

taken by the Council to put an end to United States military aircraft armed with nuclear weapons flying in the direction of the frontiers of the Soviet Union, and maintaining that the policies followed by the United States Strategic Air Command constituted a danger to world peace (see page 31).

The debate focused attention on the problem of surprise attack and the dangers of accidental war. Surprise attack had been on the "summit agenda" lists of both sides. On April 28 the United States again suggested that technical discussions be held. The Soviet Union dealt with the matter in communications dated May 9 and July 2. The latter suggested that appropriate expert representatives of both sides meet for a joint study of the practical aspects of the problem.

Subsequent correspondence led to agreement to meet in Geneva at the Palais des Nations beginning November 10, when experts from Canada, France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States met with experts from the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania and Albania. The Conference held thirty meetings, the last of which was on December 18. Throughout the discussions the Soviet side attempted to secure the consideration of a number of political proposals relating to certain measures of disarmament which ostensibly were designed to reduce the danger of surprise attack. The Western side maintained that the conference was intended to examine measures of observation and inspection from the technical point of view.

The two sides failed to agree on an agenda for the conference. However, the Western side presented a series of explanatory documents illustrating their proposed plan of work: (a) a survey of the relevant technical aspects of possible instruments of surprise attack; (b) a survey of techniques which would be effective in the observation and inspection of the instruments of surprise; (c) an illustrative outline of possible systems for observation and inspection of long-range aircraft; (d) a similar outline concerning ballistic missiles; (e) a similar paper concerning ground forces; and (f) an explanatory statement regarding factors involved in planning an integrated observation and inspection system.

The proposals put forward by the other side included; (a) a draft recommendation for an undertaking not to carry out flights of aircraft with nuclear weapons over the territories of other states or over the open seas; (b) a proposal regarding the establishment of ground control posts, the taking of aerial photographs and the adoption of certain disarmament measures to reduce the danger of surprise attack (reduction by at least one-third of foreign armed forces in the European zone of control and the exclusion of nuclear rocket weapons from the two parts of Germany); and (c) a proposal regarding the tasks and functions of the ground control posts and aerial inspection.

As stated in the final report of the conference, the meetings were helpful in clarifying for each side the views of the other. When the meetings were suspended, the participants agreed in expressing the hope that discussions on the problem of preventing surprise attacks would be resumed as early as possible.

General Assembly

The disarmament debate revolved around four items on the agenda: (a) "The question of disarmament" (agenda item 64), an item submitted by the Secretary-General, with a memorandum expressing his concern over the