

General Assembly resolution of November 28 last which suggested that "the Disarmament Commission study the desirability of establishing a special committee, consisting of representatives of the powers principally involved, which should seek, in private, an acceptable solution -- and report on such a solution to the General Assembly and to the Security Council not later than September 1, 1954."

The Eisenhower proposal was presented as a measure designed to bring about East-West co-operation on one aspect of atomic energy, thus paving the way for a general settlement of all the problems of atomic energy including the prohibition of atomic weapons. Repeated efforts by the United Nations to solve this problem since 1946 have ended in a deadlock between the Western powers and the U.S.S.R. It is true that these efforts have produced the United Nations Plan for International Control of Atomic Energy which was approved by the General Assembly in 1948, but the Communist countries opposed the plan at the time and no progress has been made since then. The stumbling block in East-West negotiations has been the question of international control of atomic energy without which adequate safeguards against the use of atomic bombs cannot be insured. The U.S.S.R. has up to now shown no indication that it is ready to accept all the implications of what is regarded by the West as an effective international control system including continuous inspection of national territories and plants. As pointed out by President Eisenhower, his proposal has "the great virtue that it can be undertaken without irritations and mutual suspicions incident to any attempt to set up a completely acceptable system of world wide inspection and control".

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE
OF THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

On April 3, 1954, at the suggestion of the United Kingdom, the Governments of France, the United States and the United Kingdom requested that the Disarmament Commission be reconvened at an early date in order to pursue its work in accordance with the General Assembly resolution of November 28, 1953. The Commission held three meetings on April 9, 14 and 19. The Commission considered the suggestion made in the General Assembly resolution that a Sub-committee be established which would be composed of representatives of "the powers principally involved" who should seek in private talks an acceptable solution to the disarmament problem. At its third meeting the Disarmament Commission approved a United Kingdom proposal to establish a Sub-committee composed of the Big Four and Canada. The vote was 9 in favour, 1 against (USSR) and 2 abstentions (China and Lebanon). The Commission recommended that the Sub-committee should report not later than July 15. The Soviet Union had proposed that Communist China, Czechoslovakia and India should also be members of the Sub-committee but this counter-proposal was rejected by a vote of 1 in favour (USSR), 10 against and 1 abstention (Lebanon). The Sub-committee held its first meeting in New York on April 23. It was decided that discussions on substantive matters should be held in London on or about May 13. The representative from the Soviet Union reiterated that the U.S.S.R. was not satisfied with the membership of the Sub-committee and reserved his right to raise this question later. None of the countries suggested by the U.S.S.R. for membership in the Sub-committee are members of the Disarmament Commission.