

American delegations proposed that their first resolution be transmitted to the next (seventh) regular session of the Assembly for its consideration. In order to avoid a debate on the substance of the proposal regarding the International Court, the Canadian Delegation voted in favour of the transmittal resolution, which was adopted in the plenary session by a vote of 36 in favour, 5 against and 14 abstentions.

The Canadian Delegation did not make any statement in the debates on this question in the Assembly. The Canadian position is to favour any practical arrangement which would break the present deadlock on membership of applicants supported by Canada.

Disarmament

The story of disarmament discussions in the United Nations is one of almost unrelieved deadlock between the fundamentally opposed and so far unreconciled positions of the Soviet Union and the Western powers. In an effort to end the stalemate that had been reached in both the Atomic Energy Commission and the Commission for Conventional Armaments, the General Assembly, at its fifth session, adopted on December 13, 1950 Resolution 496 (V) establishing a Committee of Twelve (the members of the Security Council and Canada) to consider and report to the next Assembly session on ways and means whereby the work of these two Commissions might be co-ordinated and on the advisability of their functions being placed under a new and consolidated disarmament commission. The Committee of Twelve recommended to the sixth session of the Assembly that such a new commission, which should be under and report to the Security Council, should be established and that the Atomic Energy Commission and the Commission for Conventional Armaments should then be dissolved. There was no indication beyond this of what the detailed terms of reference of the new commission might be.

The Governments of France, the United Kingdom and the United States, however, had been carrying on tripartite consultations on this problem and they submitted to the sixth session of the Assembly comprehensive proposals for the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and armaments; the task of elaborating these proposals and embodying them in a draft treaty was to be assigned to the proposed new commission. These proposals were placed in perspective by a tripartite statement issued by the sponsors just before the opening of the Assembly, which emphasized that, while in existing conditions the three Governments were determined to develop the strength needed for their security, the danger of war could be appreciably reduced if all governments would work together on a programme to reduce and limit armed forces. Although such a programme could not be implemented while United Nations forces were resisting aggression in Korea, discussion should begin without delay. Three new and notable features of these proposals were (a) that they provided, as a first step, for a progressive and continuous system of international disclosure and verification of all armed forces and armaments, (b) that they suggested the drawing