

by the delegation of Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States, was adopted by the General Assembly on December 5 by a vote of 45 in favour, 5 against, with 5 abstentions.

CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS 1950, pp. 48-50:

In spite of the anticipated development of a "hydrogen bomb" utilizing the process of solar energy release, and the mounting international tension which flared into open conflict in the Far East, the interval between the Fourth and Fifth Sessions of the General Assembly saw no progress towards reaching agreement on either the international control of atomic weapons or the limitation of conventional armaments. The primary obstacle to agreement was the continued refusal of the Soviet Government to modify in any significant way its previous proposals which had been considered by the majority of members of the United Nations to be so inadequate as to provide no more than a mockery of the security the nations sought. Soviet intransigence was augmented by their insistence that disarmament and all other issues be subordinated to the question of Chinese representation.

Talks on atomic energy control among the six sponsoring Powers, including Canada, were resumed in December 1949 at the request of the General Assembly. These talks, however, were interrupted abruptly by the walk-out of the Soviet Representative in January 1950, as a result of the group's refusal to unseat the Representative of Nationalist China. Shortly after, the other five permanent members of the Atomic Energy Commission concluded that it would be useless to continue without the Representative of the U.S.S.R., and no further progress among the Six, or in the Atomic Energy Commission as a whole was possible during 1950.

A twenty-year peace plan, submitted by Mr. Trygve Lie in the spring of 1950, was debated at the Fifth Session of the General Assembly. It included a proposal that the problem of atomic energy control be considered by an international panel of scientists, but as the obstacles to agreement appeared to be fundamentally political rather than technical, support for this proposal was not forthcoming.

The General Assembly at its Fourth Session (1949) had asked the Commission for Conventional Armaments to continue its studies in the field of inspection, verification and reduction of conventional armaments, and as 1950 opened, talks were in progress in the Working Committee of the Commission. Like the negotiations concerning atomic energy, however, these talks were broken off by a Soviet walk-out in January over the question of Chinese representations.

In an address to the General Assembly on October 24, President Truman indicated his willingness to meet the repeated demand of the U.S.S.R. that the subjects of atomic control and general disarmament should be given joint consideration. Late in the Fifth Session of the Assembly this suggestion was taken up in an eight-power resolution establishing a committee of twelve members, to examine the possible merging of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Commission for Conventional Armaments and to report to the next regular session. Canada, one of the co-sponsors, is represented on the committee, which was established on the adoption of the resolution by 47 votes to 5 with 3 abstentions. This resolution was opposed by the representatives of the Soviet bloc whose speeches monotonously reproduced their previous views on the subject. Their counter-proposal, calling for simultaneous conventions prohibiting atomic weapons and establishing control of atom energy, was defeated by 32 votes to 5 with 16 abstentions.