

REFERENCE PAPERS

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 75

UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS ON DISARMAMENT

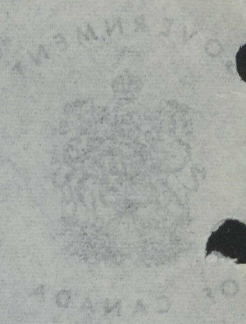
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* G.A.: General Assembly; S.C.: Security Council;
A.E.C.: Atomic Energy Commission;
C.C.A.: Commission for Conventional Armaments.

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A.E.C.: Atomic Energy Commission
C.G.A.A.: Commission for Conventional Armaments.

JANUARY 24, 1946, GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1(I)

ESTABLISHMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

(Adopted unanimously by 47 votes at
17th Plenary Meeting)

Resolved by the General Assembly of the United Nations
to establish a Commission, with the composition and com-
petence set out hereunder, to deal with the problems raised
by the discovery of atomic energy and other related matters:

1. Establishment of the Commission

A Commission is hereby established by the General
Assembly with the terms of reference set out under section 5
below.

2. Relations of the Commission with the Organs of the
United Nations

(a) The Commission shall submit its reports and recommen-
dations to the Security Council, and such reports and
recommendations shall be made public unless the Security
Council, in the interest of peace and security, otherwise
directs. In the appropriate cases the Security Council should
transmit these reports to the General Assembly and the Members
of the United Nations, as well as to the Economic and Social
Council and other organs within the framework of the United
Nations.

(b) In view of the Security Council's primary responsibility
under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance
of international peace and security, the Security Council
shall issue directions to the Commission in matters affecting
security. On these matters the Commission shall be accountable
for its work to the Security Council.

3. Composition of the Commission

The Commission shall be composed of one representative
from each of those States represented on the Security Council,
and Canada when that State is not a member of the Security
Council. Each representative on the Commission may have such
assistance as he may desire.

4. Rules of Procedure

The Commission shall have whatever staff it may deem
necessary, and shall make recommendations for its rules
of procedure to the Security Council, which shall approve
them as a procedural matter.

5. Terms of Reference of the Commission

The Commission shall proceed with the utmost
despatch and enquire into all phases of the problem, and
make such recommendations from time to time with respect to
them as it finds possible. In particular, the Commission
shall make specific proposals:

- (a) for extending between all nations the exchange
of basic scientific information for peaceful
ends;

- (b) for control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes;
- (c) for the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction;
- (d) for effective safeguards by way of inspection and other means to protect complying States against the hazards of violations and evasions.

The work of the Commission should proceed by separate stages, the successful completion of each of which will develop the necessary confidence of the world before the next stage is undertaken.

The Commission shall not infringe upon the responsibilities of any organ of the United Nations, but should present recommendations for the consideration of those organs in the performance of their tasks under the terms of the United Nations Charter.

DECEMBER 14, 1946, GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 41(I)

PRINCIPLES GOVERNING GENERAL REGULATION AND
REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS

(Adopted unanimously at 63rd Plenary Meeting)

1. In pursuance of Article 11 of the Charter and with a view to strengthening international peace and security in conformity with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations,

The General Assembly,

Recognizes the necessity of an early general regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces.

2. Accordingly,

The General Assembly,

Recommends that the Security Council give prompt consideration to formulating the practical measures, according to their priority, which are essential to provide for the general regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces and to assure that such regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces will be generally observed by all participants and not unilaterally by only some of the participants. The plans formulated by the Security Council shall be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Members of the United Nations for consideration at a special session of the General Assembly. The treaties or conventions approved by the General Assembly shall be submitted to the signatory States for ratification in accordance with Article 26 of the Charter.

3. As an essential step towards the urgent objective of prohibiting and eliminating from national armaments atomic and all other major weapons adaptable now and in the future to mass destruction, and the early establishment of international control of atomic energy and other modern scientific discoveries and technical developments to ensure their use only for peaceful purposes,

The General Assembly,

Urges the expeditious fulfilment by the Atomic Energy Commission of its terms of reference as set forth in section 4 of the General Assembly resolution of 24 January, 1946.

4. In order to ensure that the general prohibition, regulation and reduction of armaments are directed towards the major weapons of modern warfare and not merely towards the minor weapons,

The General Assembly,

Recommends that the Security Council expedite consideration of the reports which the Atomic Energy Commission will make to the Security Council and that it facilitate the work of that Commission, and also that the Security Council expedite consideration of a draft convention or conventions for the creation of an international system of control and inspection, these conventions to include the prohibition of atomic and all other major weapons adaptable now and in the future to mass destruction and the control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes.

5. The General Assembly,

Further recognizes that essential to the general regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces, is the provision of practical and effective safeguards by way of inspection and other means to protect complying States against the hazards of violations and evasions.

Accordingly,

The General Assembly,

Recommends to the Security Council that it give prompt consideration to the working out of proposals to provide such practical and effective safeguards in connexion with the control of atomic energy and the general regulation and reduction of armaments.

6. To ensure the adoption of measures for the early general regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces, for the prohibition of the use of atomic energy for military purposes and the elimination from national armaments of atomic and all other major weapons adaptable now or in the future to mass destruction, and for the control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes,

There shall be established, within the framework of the Security Council, which bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, an international system, as mentioned in paragraph 4,

operating through special organs, which organs shall derive their powers and status from the convention or conventions under which they are established.

7. The General Assembly,

Regarding the problem of security as closely connected with that of disarmament,

Recommends the Security Council to accelerate as much as possible the placing at its disposal of the armed forces mentioned in Article 43 of the Charter;

Recommends the Members to undertake the progressive and balanced withdrawal, taking into account the needs of occupation, of their armed forces stationed in ex-enemy territories, and the withdrawal without delay of their armed forces stationed in the territories of Members without their consent freely and publicly expressed in treaties or agreements consistent with the Charter and not contradicting international agreements;

Further recommends a corresponding reduction of national armed forces, and a general progressive and balanced reduction of national armed forces.

8. Nothing herein contained shall alter or limit the resolution of the General Assembly passed on 24 January, 1946, creating the Atomic Energy Commission.

9. The General Assembly,

Calls upon all Members of the United Nations to render every possible assistance to the Security Council and the Atomic Energy Commission in order to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and collective security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources.

FEBRUARY 13, 1947, SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION ON CONVENTIONAL
ARMAMENTS

(Adopted at 105th Meeting)

The Security Council,

Having accepted the resolution of the General Assembly of 14 December 1946 and recognizing that the general regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces constitute a most important measure for strengthening international peace and security, and that the implementation of the resolution of the General Assembly on this subject is one of the most urgent and important tasks before the Security Council,

Resolves:

1. To work out the practical measures for giving effect to the resolutions of the General Assembly on 14 December 1946 concerning, on the one hand, the general regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces, and the establishment of international control to bring about the reduction of armaments and armed forces, and, on the other hand, information concerning the armed forces of the United Nations;

2. To consider as soon as possible the report submitted by the Atomic Energy Commission and to take suitable decisions in order to facilitate its work;

3. To set up a Commission consisting of representatives of the members of the Security Council with instructions to prepare and submit to the Security Council within the space of not more than three months, the proposals:

(a) For the general regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces;

(b) For practical and effective safeguards in connexion with the general regulation and reduction of armaments;

which the Commission may be in a position to formulate in order to ensure the implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions of the General Assembly of 14 December 1946, in so far as these resolutions relate to armaments within the new Commission's jurisdiction.

The Commission shall submit a plan of work to the Council for approval;

Those matters which fall within the competence of the Atomic Energy Commission as determined by the General Assembly resolutions of 24 January 1946 and 14 December 1946 shall be excluded from the jurisdiction of the Commission hereby established;

The title of the Commission shall be the Commission for Conventional Armaments;

The Commission shall make such proposals as it may deem advisable concerning the studies which the Military Staff Committee and possibly other organs of the United Nations might be asked to undertake;

4. To request the Military Staff Committee to submit to it, as soon as possible, and as a matter of urgency, the recommendations for which it has been asked by the Security Council on 16 February 1946 in pursuance of Article 43 of the Charter, and as a first step, to submit to the Security Council not later than 30 April 1947, its recommendations with regard to the basic principles which should govern the organization of the United Nations Armed Force."

MARCH 10, 1947, SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

URGING ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION TO CONTINUE
INQUIRY

(Adopted at 117th Meeting)

The Security Council, having received and considered the First Report of the Atomic Energy Commission dated 31 December 1946, together with its letter of transmittal of the same date,

Recognizes that any agreement expressed by the members of the Council to the separate portions of the report is preliminary since final acceptance of any part by any nation is conditioned upon its acceptance of all parts of the control plan in its final form;

Transmits the record of its consideration of the First Report of the Atomic Energy Commission to the Commission;

Urges the Atomic Energy Commission, in accordance with the General Assembly resolutions of 24 January and 14 December 1946, to continue its inquiry into all phases of the problem of the international control of atomic energy and to develop as promptly as possible the specific proposals called for by section 5 of the General Assembly resolution of 24 January 1946, and by the resolution of the General Assembly of 14 December 1946 and in due course to prepare and submit to the Security Council a draft treaty or treaties or convention or conventions incorporating its ultimate proposals;

Requests the Atomic Energy Commission to submit a second report to the Security Council before the next session of the General Assembly.

JULY 8, 1947, SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

PLAN OF WORK ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION FOR
CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS

(Adopted at 152nd Meeting)

1. Consider and make recommendations to the Security Council concerning armaments and armed forces which fall within the jurisdiction of the Commission for Conventional Armaments.

2. Consideration and determination of general principles in connexion with the regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces.

3. Consideration of practical and effective safeguards by means of an international system of control operating through special organs (and by other means) to protect complying States against the hazards of violations and evasions.

4. Formulate practical proposals for the regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces.

5. Extension of the principles and proposals set forth in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 above to States which are not Members of the United Nations.

6. Submission of a report or reports to the Security Council including, if possible, a draft convention.

It is proposed that under the six headings listed above all of the references by the various delegations suggested for the plan of work will be considered.

It is also understood that this plan of work does not limit the freedom of individual delegations to make additional suggestions at a later time.

AUGUST 12, 1948, COMMISSION FOR CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS
RESOLUTION

PRINCIPLES RECOMMENDED FOR ARMAMENTS REGULATION AND
REDUCTION

(Adopted at 13th Meeting)

The Commission for Conventional Armaments recommends that the following principles should govern the formulation of practical proposals for the establishment of a system for the regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces:

1. A system for the regulation and reduction of armed forces should provide for the adherence of all States. Initially it must include at least all States having substantial military resources.

2. A system of regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces can only be put into effect in an atmosphere of international confidence and security. Measures for the regulation and reduction of armaments which would follow the establishment of the necessary degree of confidence might in turn be expected to increase confidence and so justify further measures of regulation and reduction.

3. Examples of conditions essential to such confidence and security are:

(a) The establishment of an adequate system of agreements under Article 43 of the Charter. Until the agreed forces are pledged to the Security Council an essential step in establishing a system of collective security will not have been taken.

(b) The establishment of international control of atomic energy. It is a basic assumption of the work of the Commission for Conventional Armaments that the Atomic Energy Commission will make specific proposals for the elimination from

national armaments of atomic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

(c) The conclusion of the peace settlements with Germany and Japan. Conditions of international peace and security will not be fully established until measures have been agreed upon which will prevent these States from undertaking aggressive action in the future.

4. A system for the regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces, in order to make possible the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources pursuant to Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations, must limit armaments and armed forces to those which are consistent with and indispensable to the maintenance of international peace and security. Such armaments and armed forces should not exceed those necessary for the implementation of members' obligations and the protection of their rights under the Charter of the United Nations.

5. A system for the regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces must include an adequate system of safeguards, which by including an agreed system of international supervision will ensure the observance of the provisions of the treaty or convention by all parties thereto. A system of safeguards cannot be adequate unless it possesses the following characteristics:

(a) it is technically feasible and practical;

(b) it is capable of detecting promptly the occurrence of violations;

(c) it causes the minimum interference with, and imposes the minimum burdens on, any aspect of the life of individual nations.

6. Provision must be made for effective enforcement action in the event of violations.

AUGUST 12, 1948, COMMISSION FOR CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS
RESOLUTION

DEFINITION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS

(Adopted at 13th Meeting)

The Commission for Conventional Armaments resolves to advise the Security Council

1. that it considers that all armaments and armed forces, except atomic weapons and weapons of mass destruction, fall within its jurisdiction and that weapons of mass destruction should be defined to include atomic explosive weapons, radio active material weapons, lethal chemical and biological weapons, and any weapons developed in the future which have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to those of the atomic bomb or other weapons mentioned above.

2. that it proposes to proceed with its work on the basis of the above definition.

NOVEMBER 4, 1948, GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 191 (III)

REPORTS OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

(Adopted at 157th Plenary Meeting by a vote of 40 in favour (including Canada), 6 against (Soviet Bloc), with 4 abstentions)

The General Assembly,

Having examined the first, second and third reports of the Atomic Energy Commission, which have been transmitted to it by the Security Council in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 1 of 24 January 1946,

1. Approves the general findings (part II C) and recommendations (part III) of the first report and the specific proposals of part II of the second report of the Commission as constituting the necessary basis for establishing an effective system of international control of atomic energy to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes and for the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons in accordance with the terms of reference of the Atomic Energy Commission;

2. Expresses its deep concern at the impasse which has been reached in the work of the Atomic Energy Commission, as shown in its third report, and regrets that unanimous agreement has not yet been reached;

3. Requests the six sponsors of the General Assembly resolution of 24 January 1946, which are the permanent members of the Atomic Energy Commission, to meet together and consult in order to determine if there exists a basis for agreement on the international control of atomic energy to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes and for the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons, and to report to the General Assembly the results of their consultation not later than its next regular session;

4. Meanwhile,

The General Assembly

Calls upon the Atomic Energy Commission to resume its sessions, to survey its programme of work, and to proceed to the further study of such of the subjects remaining in the programme of work as it considers to be practicable and useful.

NOVEMBER 19, 1948, GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 192 (III)

CONTINUATION OF STUDIES BY COMMISSION FOR CONVENTIONAL
ARMAMENTS, ESPECIALLY DATA ON LEVEL OF CONVENTIONAL
ARMAMENTS AND ARMED FORCES

(Adopted at 163rd Plenary Meeting on paragraph-by-paragraph
vote; Canada against)

The General Assembly.

Desiring to establish relations of confident collaboration between the States within the framework of the Charter and to make possible a general reduction of armaments in order that humanity may in future be spared the horrors of war and that the peoples may not be overwhelmed by the continually increasing burden of military expenditure,

Considering that no agreement is attainable on any proposal for the reduction of conventional armaments and armed forces so long as each State lacks exact and authenticated information concerning the conventional armaments and armed forces of other States, so long as no convention has been concluded regarding the types of military forces to which such reduction would apply, and so long as no organ of control has been established,

Considering that the aim of the reduction of conventional armaments and armed forces can only be attained in an atmosphere of real and lasting improvement in international relations, which implies in particular the application of control of atomic energy involving the prohibition of the atomic weapon,

But noting on the other hand that this renewal of confidence would be greatly encouraged if States were placed in possession of precise and verified data as to the level of their respective conventional armaments and armed forces,

Recommends the Security Council to pursue the study of the regulation and reduction of conventional armaments and armed forces through the agency of the Commission for Conventional Armaments in order to obtain concrete results as soon as possible;

Trusts that the Commission for Conventional Armaments, in carrying out its plan of work, will devote its first attention to formulating proposals for the receipt, checking and publication, by an international organ of control within the framework of the Security Council, of full information to be supplied by Member States with regard to their effectives and their conventional armaments;

Invites the Security Council to report to the Assembly no later than its next regular session on the effect given to the present recommendation, with a view to enabling it to continue its activity with regard to the regulation of armaments in accordance with the purposes and principles defined by the Charter;

Invites all nations in the Commission for Conventional Armaments to co-operate to the utmost of their power in the attainment of the above-mentioned objectives.

JULY 29, 1949, ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION RESOLUTION AEC/42

NO USEFUL PURPOSE..... BY FURTHER DISCUSSIONS

(Adopted at 24th Meeting by a vote of 7 in favour (including Canada), 2 against (Ukrainian S.S.R. and Soviet Union), and 2 abstentions (Argentina and Egypt))

The Atomic Energy Commission

Has considered the proposal of the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (AEC/37) that the Atomic Energy Commission begin immediately to prepare a draft convention for the prohibition of atomic weapons and a draft convention for the control of atomic energy proceeding from the principle that both conventions must be concluded and put into effect simultaneously;

Has noted the statement of the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at the forty-fifth meeting of the Working Committee on Wednesday, 1 June 1949, that the proposals submitted by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on atomic energy in June 1946 and June 1947 should be taken as a basis for the elaboration of these draft conventions;

Recalls that these same proposals, particularly those of 11 June 1947, have already been analysed in detail and rejected in April 1948 on the grounds that "they ignore the existing technical knowledge of the problem of atomic energy control, do not provide an adequate basis for the effective international control of atomic energy and the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons, and, therefore, do not conform to the terms of reference of the Atomic Energy Commission";

Recalls that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposal for the preparation of a draft convention for the prohibition of atomic weapons and a draft convention for the control of atomic energy to be concluded and brought into effect simultaneously was rejected by the General Assembly at the 157th plenary meeting in its third session on 4 November 1948, by 40 votes to 6, with 5 abstentions;

And recalls also that at the same time the General Assembly approved the "General Findings" (Part II C) and "Recommendations" (Part III) of the first report and the specific proposals of Part II of the second report of the Commission, as constituting the necessary basis for establishing an effective system of international control of atomic energy to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes and for the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons in accordance with the terms of reference of the Atomic Energy Commission;

The Atomic Energy Commission observes that no material has been presented additional to that previously submitted to the General Assembly, the Commission or the Working Committee;

The Atomic Energy Commission therefore concludes that no useful purpose can be served by further discussions in the Atomic Energy Commission of those proposals which have already been considered and rejected by the appropriate organs of the United Nations. The Atomic Energy Commission reports to the Security Council and the General Assembly accordingly.

JULY 29, 1949, ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION RESOLUTION AEC/43

IMPASSE REACHED

(Adopted at 24th Meeting by a vote of 9 in favour (including Canada), 2 against (Ukrainian S.S.R. and Soviet Union), no abstentions)

The Atomic Energy Commission

Reports:

That in accordance with the instructions in General Assembly resolution 191 (III) of 4 November 1948, the Atomic Energy Commission has surveyed its programme of work in order to determine whether further work would be practicable and useful;

That the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Ukrainian SSR continue to reject the recommendations of the Commission approved by the General Assembly on 4 November 1948, including those forms of control contained in the plan approved by the General Assembly "as constituting the necessary basis for establishing an effective system of international control of atomic energy to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes and for the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons in accordance with the terms of reference of the Atomic Energy Commission";

That the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Ukrainian SSR continue to insist on the adoption of the draft resolution (A/C.1/310) proposed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and rejected by the General Assembly on 4 November 1948, to prepare immediately separate convention based on the proposals of the Soviet Union of June 1946 and June 1947, which provide among other things for national ownership of dangerous and explosive atomic materials, and for national ownership, operation and management of dangerous atomic facilities. This, in the opinion of the majority of the Commission, would not remove causes for suspicion, fear and distrust among nations, would render ineffective the prohibition of atomic weapons, and would continue dangerous national rivalries in the field of atomic energy;

Concludes:

That the impasse as analysed in the third report of the Atomic Energy Commission still exists; that these differences are irreconcilable at the Commission level, and that further discussion in the Atomic Energy Commission would tend to harden these differences and would serve no practicable or useful purpose until such time as the Sponsoring Powers have reported that there exists a basis for agreement.

NOVEMBER 23, 1949, GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 299 (IV)

REQUESTING FURTHER CONSULTATIONS BY ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

(Adopted at 254th Plenary Meeting by a vote of 49 in favour (including Canada), 5 against, with 3 abstentions)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1 (I) of 24 January 1946, 41 (I) of 14 December 1946 and 191 (III) of 4 November 1948,

Aware that atomic energy, if used for peace, will lead to the increase of human welfare, but if used for war may bring about the destruction of civilization,

Anxious to free humanity from the dangers which will continue to exist as long as States retain under their individual control the development and operation of atomic energy facilities,

Convinced that an international co-operative effort can avoid these dangers and can hasten the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy for the benefit of all peoples,

1. Urges all nations to join in such a co-operative development and use of atomic energy for peaceful ends;
2. Calls upon Governments to do everything in their power to make possible, by the acceptance of effective international control, the effective prohibition and elimination of atomic weapons;
3. Requests the permanent members of the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission to continue their consultations, to explore all possible avenues and examine all concrete suggestions with a view to determining whether they might lead to an agreement securing the basic objectives of the General Assembly in this question, and to keep the Atomic Energy Commission and the General Assembly informed of their progress;
4. Recommends that all nations, in the use of their rights of sovereignty, join in mutual agreement to limit the individual exercise of those rights in the control of atomic energy to the extent required, in the light of the foregoing considerations, for the promotion of world security and peace, and recommends that all nations agree to exercise such rights jointly.

DECEMBER 5, 1949, GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 300 (IV)

APPROVAL OF FULL DATA PROPOSALS BY COMMISSION FOR
CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS

(Adopted at 268th Plenary Meeting by a vote of
44 in favour (including Canada), 5 against, with
5 abstentions)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 192 (III) of 19 November 1948, and in particular its recommendation that the Commission for Conventional Armaments, in carrying out its plan of work, devote its first attention to the formulation of proposals for the receipt, checking and publication, by an international organ of control within the framework of the Security Council, of full information to be supplied by Member States with regard to their effectives and their conventional armaments,

Having examined the records of the discussions in the Security Council and in the Commission for Conventional Armaments regarding the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendation,

1. Approves the proposals formulated by the Commission for Conventional Armaments for the submission by Member States of full information on their conventional armaments and armed forces and the verification thereof, as constituting the necessary basis for the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendation;
2. Considers that the early submission of this information would constitute an essential step towards a substantial reduction of conventional armaments and armed forces and that, on the other hand, no agreement is likely to be reached on this matter so long as each State lacks exact and authenticated information concerning the conventional armaments and armed forces of other States;
3. Notes that unanimity among the permanent members of the Security Council, which is essential for the implementation of the above-mentioned proposals, has not yet been achieved;
4. Recommends therefore that the Security Council, despite the lack of unanimity among its permanent members on this essential feature of its work, continue its study of the regulation and reduction of conventional armaments and armed forces through the agency of the Commission for Conventional Armaments in accordance with its plan of work, in order to make such progress as may be possible;
5. Calls upon all members of the Security Council to co-operate to this end.

DECEMBER 13, 1950, GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 496 (V)

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE OF TWELVE

(Adopted at 323rd Plenary Meeting by a vote of 47 in favour (including Canada), 5 against, with 3 abstentions)

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the effective regulation and reduction of national armaments would substantially diminish the present danger of war, relieve the heavy economic burden placed upon the peoples of the world in the absence of a system of armaments control, and permit the greater use of man's resources to projects devoted to his betterment,

Recognizing that the regulation and reduction of armaments to be effective must cover weapons of all kinds, must be based on unanimous agreement, and so must include every nation having substantial armaments and armed forces,

Recognizing further that any plan for the regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces must be based upon safeguards that will secure the compliance of all nations,

Recognizing the inability to date to achieve agreement among nations on the elimination of atomic weapons under a system of effective international control of atomic energy and on the regulation and reduction of other armaments and armed forces,

Recalling that a plan has been developed in the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission, and approved by the General Assembly, for the international control of atomic energy, which would make effective the prohibition of atomic weapons; and that much useful planning work has been accomplished in the Commission for Conventional Armaments,

Desiring, however, to carry this work forward toward a comprehensive system of armaments control,

Decides to establish a committee of twelve, consisting of representatives of the members of the Security Council as of 1 January 1951, together with Canada, to consider and report to the next regular session of the General Assembly on ways and means whereby the work of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Commission for Conventional Armaments may be co-ordinated and on the advisability of their functions being merged and placed under a new and consolidated disarmament commission.

JANUARY 11, 1952, GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 502 (VI)

ESTABLISHMENT OF DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

(Adopted at 358th Plenary Meeting by a vote of 42 in favour (including Canada), 5 against (Soviet Bloc), with 7 abstentions)

The General Assembly,

Moved by anxiety at the general lack of confidence plaguing the world and leading to the burden of increasing armaments and the fear of war,

Desiring to lift from the peoples of the world this burden and this fear, and thus to liberate new energies and resources for positive programmes of reconstruction and development,

Reaffirming its desire that the United Nations develop an effective collective security system to maintain the peace and that the armed forces and armaments of the world be progressively reduced in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the Charter,

Believing that a necessary means to this end is the development by the United Nations of comprehensive and co-ordinated plans, under international control, for the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments, for the elimination of all major weapons adaptable to mass destruction, and for the effective international control of atomic energy to ensure the prohibition of atomic weapons and the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes only,

Recognizing that a genuine system for disarmament must include all kinds of armed forces and armaments, must be accepted by all nations whose military resources are such that their failure to accept would endanger the system, and must include safeguards that will ensure the compliance of all such nations,

Noting the recommendation of the Committee of Twelve established by resolution 496 (V) that the General Assembly should establish a new commission to carry forward the tasks originally assigned to the Atomic Energy Commission and the Commission for Conventional Armaments,

1. Establishes under the Security Council a Disarmament Commission. This Commission shall have the same membership as the Atomic Energy Commission and the Commission for Conventional Armaments, and shall function under the rules of procedure of the Atomic Energy Commission with such modifications as the Commission shall deem necessary;

2. Dissolves the Atomic Energy Commission and recommends to the Security Council that it dissolve the Commission for Conventional Armaments;

3. Directs the Disarmament Commission to prepare proposals to be embodied in a draft treaty (or treaties) for the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments, for the elimination of all major

weapons adaptable to mass destruction, and for effective international control of atomic energy to ensure the prohibition of atomic weapons and the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes only. The Commission shall be guided by the following principles:

(a) In a system of guaranteed disarmament there must be progressive disclosure and verification on a continuing basis of all armed forces - including para-military, security and police forces - and all armaments including atomic;

(b) Such verification must be based on effective international inspection to ensure the adequacy and accuracy of the information disclosed; this inspection to be carried out in accordance with the decisions of the international control organ (or organs) to be established;

(c) The Commission shall be ready to consider any proposals or plans for control that may be put forward involving either conventional armaments or atomic energy. Unless a better or no less effective system is devised, the United Nations plan for the international control of atomic energy and the prohibition of atomic weapons should continue to serve as the basis for the international control of atomic energy to ensure the prohibition of atomic weapons and the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes only;

(d) There must be an adequate system of safeguards to ensure observance of the disarmament programme, so as to provide for the prompt detection of violations while at the same time causing the minimum degree of interference in the internal life of each country;

(e) The treaty (or treaties) shall specifically be open to all States for signature and ratification or adherence. The treaty (or treaties) shall provide what States must become parties thereto before the treaty (or treaties) shall enter into force;

4. Directs the Commission, when preparing the proposals referred to in the preceding paragraph, to formulate plans for the establishment, within the framework of the Security Council, of an international control organ (or organs) to ensure the implementation of the treaty (or treaties). The functions and powers of the control organ (or organs) shall be defined in the treaty which establishes it;

5. Directs the Commission, in preparing the proposals referred to in paragraph 3 above, to consider from the outset plans for progressive and continuing disclosure and verification, the implementation of which is recognized as a first and indispensable step in carrying out the disarmament programme envisaged in the present resolution;

6. Directs the Commission, in working out plans for the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments:

(a) To determine how over-all limits and restrictions on all armed forces and all armaments can be calculated and fixed;

(b) To consider methods according to which States can agree by negotiation among themselves, under the auspices of the Commission, concerning the determination of the overall limits and restrictions referred to in sub-paragraph (a) above and the allocation within their respective national military establishments of the permitted national armed forces and armaments;

7. Directs the Commission to commence its work not later than thirty days from the adoption of the present resolution and to report periodically, for information, to the Security Council and to the General Assembly, or to the Members of the United Nations when the General Assembly is not in session. The Commission shall submit its first report not later than 1 June 1952;

8. Declares that a conference of all States should be convened to consider the proposals for a draft treaty (or treaties) prepared by the Commission as soon as the work of the Commission shall have progressed to a point where in the judgment of the Commission any part of its programme is ready for submission to governments;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to convene such a conference when so advised by the Commission;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to furnish such experts, staff and facilities as the Commission may consider necessary for the effective accomplishment of the purposes of the present resolution.

APRIL 8, 1953, GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 704 (VII)

REPORT OF DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

(Adopted at 424th Plenary Meeting by a vote of 52 in favour (including Canada), 5 against (Soviet Bloc), with 3 abstentions (Argentina, Burma, and Indonesia)

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that:

Under the Charter of the United Nations all States are bound to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered, and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations,

The aim of a system of world-wide disarmament is to prevent war and release the world's human and economic resources for the purposes of peace,

1. Takes note of the report of the Disarmament Commission;

2. Reaffirms General Assembly resolution 502 (VI) of 11 January 1952 and requests the Disarmament Commission to

continue its work for the development by the United Nations of comprehensive and co-ordinated plans providing for:

(a) The regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and armaments;

(b) The elimination and prohibition of all major weapons, including bacteriological, adaptable to mass destruction;

(c) The effective international control of atomic energy to ensure the prohibition of atomic weapons and the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes only; The whole programme to be carried out under effective international control in such a way that no State would have cause to fear that its security was endangered;

3. Requests the Commission to report to the General Assembly and to the Security Council no later than 1 September 1953, and hopes that all the members of the Commission will co-operate in efforts to produce constructive proposals likely to facilitate its task.

NOVEMBER 28, 1953, GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 715 (VIII)

REPORT OF DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

(Adopted at 460th Plenary Meeting by a vote of 54 in favour, none opposed, with 5 abstentions)

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the responsibility of the United Nations for considering the problem of disarmament and affirming the need of providing for:

(a) The regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments,

(b) The elimination and prohibition of atomic, hydrogen and other types of weapons of mass destruction,

(c) The effective international control of atomic energy to ensure the prohibition of atomic weapons and the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes only, the whole programme to be carried out under effective international control and in such a way that no State would have cause to fear that its security was endangered,

Believing that the continued development of weapons of mass destruction such as atomic and hydrogen bombs has given additional urgency to efforts to bring about effectively controlled disarmament throughout the world, as the existence of civilization itself may be at stake,

Mindful that progress in the settlement of existing international disputes and the resulting re-establishment of confidence are vital to the attainment of peace and disarmament and that efforts to reach agreement on a comprehensive and co-ordinated disarmament programme with adequate safeguards should be made concurrently with progress in the settlement of international disputes,

Believing that progress in either field would contribute to progress in the other,

Realizing that competition in the development of armaments and armed forces beyond what is necessary for the individual or collective security of Member States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations is not only economically unsound but is in itself a grave danger to peace,

Conscious of the continuing desire of all nations, by lightening the burden of armaments, to release more of the world's human and economic resources for peace,

Having received the third report of the Disarmament Commission of 20 August 1953, submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 704 (VII) of 8 April 1953,

Endorsing the Commission's hope that recent international events will create a more propitious atmosphere for reconsideration of the disarmament question, the capital importance of which, in conjunction with other questions affecting the maintenance of peace, is recognized by all,

1. Recognizes the general wish and affirms its earnest desire to reach agreement as early as possible on a comprehensive and co-ordinated plan, under international control, for the regulation, limitation and reduction of all armed forces and all armaments, for the elimination and prohibition of atomic, hydrogen, bacterial, chemical and all such other weapons of war and mass destruction, and for the attainment of these ends through effective measures;
2. Recognizes that, whatever the weapons used, aggression is contrary to the conscience and honour of the peoples and incompatible with membership in the United Nations and is the gravest of all crimes against peace and security throughout the world;
3. Takes note of the third report of the Disarmament Commission;
4. Requests the Commission to continue its efforts to reach agreement on the problems with which it is concerned, taking into consideration proposals made at the eighth session of the General Assembly, and to report again to the General Assembly and to the Security Council not later than 1 September 1954;
5. Calls on all Member States, and particularly the major Powers, to intensify their efforts to assist the Disarmament Commission in its tasks and to submit to the Commission any proposals which they have to make in the field of disarmament;
6. Suggests that the Disarmament Commission study the desirability of establishing a sub-committee consisting of representatives of the Powers principally involved, which should seek in private an acceptable solution and report to the Disarmament Commission as soon as possible, in order that the Commission may study and report on such a solution to the

General Assembly and to the Security Council not later than 1 September 1954;

7. Further suggests to the Disarmament Commission, in order to facilitate the progress of its work, to arrange for the sub-committee, when established, to hold its private meetings as appropriate in the different countries most concerned with the problem.

RP/C

May, 1954.

General Assembly and to the Security Council not later than
1 September 1954;

Further suggests to the Disarmament Commission
in order to facilitate the progress of its work, to arrange
for the sub-committee, when established, to hold its private
meetings as appropriate in the distant countries most
concerned with the problem.

R/C

May, 1954