SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

Declaration of the Delegations of Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America

The delegations of Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America wish to place on record their attitude towards the draft resolution introduced by the delegation of the USSR on 25 February. The Soviet proposal calls for the immediate destruction of stocks of nuclear weapons without halting the production of these weapons and with no provision for the reduction of military manpower and of conventional armaments. It makes only the barest reference to international control. Moreover, this programme would, in the words of the Soviet representative, "be carried out here and now without waiting for the examination of other questions" -- in other words, without agreement on the other essential elements of the comprehensive disarmament programme which the Sub-Committee was instructed to work out.

As they have repeatedly stated in the Sub-Committee, the four Western delegations are ready to discuss the proposals set forth in the Soviet draft resolution on the understanding that such proposals form an integral part of a phased disarmament programme. However, the Soviet delegation has for its part made it clear that the Soviet Government has put forward these proposals
on a completely different basis. In so doing it has abandoned
the principle laid down in the resolution of the General Assembly
which was co-sponsored by the Soviet delegation and approved
unanimously by the General Assembly on 4 November 1954. In these
circumstances the Western delegations feel obliged to declare
that the Soviet draft resolution of 25 February is unacceptable.

The Soviet delegation must be aware that the other
Governments represented on the Sub-Committee, and with them the
vast majority of the nations of the world, could not accept a
resolution which deliberately violated two of the essential
principles of any disarmament plan: the necessity of ensuring
that it should be carried out by stages and that it should apply
equally to all the elements of the military power of a State. Any
disarmament plan, to be acceptable must be drawn up in such a
way that each of its stages increases the security of all parties
and not the security of only one of the parties at the expense
of the others. It must provide for genuine and effective
international control and inspection, fully competent to ensure
its effective execution.

The Western delegations therefore propose that the
Sub-Committee should now proceed to a discussion of the comprehensive
draft resolution sponsored by the delegations of Canada, France,
the United Kingdom and the United States. This draft resolution
is based on the Franco-British plan of 11 June 1954, which was
accepted by the Soviet Government on 30 September 1954 as the basis
of a Disarmament Treaty.
The Soviet delegation will have observed that the three elements of a disarmament programme which in its own draft resolution were singled out for prior execution are contained in this four-Power draft resolution. The Western delegations would be willing to discuss the three elements of the Soviet proposal prior to a discussion of any of the other points in their own draft resolution. If, however, the Soviet delegation insists that its proposals should be agreed and carried out before there can be any examination of other questions and phases of a disarmament programme, the Sub-Committee will unhappily be faced with the prospect of deadlock. In that event there could be no doubt with whom the responsibility for such a result must lie.