

UNITED NATIONS
DISARMAMENT
COMMISSION

ANNEX 13



GENERAL

DC/SC.1/24
19 April 1955
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/
FRENCH

SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM BY DELEGATIONS OF FRANCE AND THE
UNITED KINGDOM: PROHIBITION AND ELIMINATION
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The Soviet representative has claimed that the disarmament programme put forward by the Western Powers in their draft resolution of 8 March (DC/SC.1/15/Rev.1) is unco-ordinated and that the prohibition of atomic weapons and the conversion of stocks of such weapons to peaceful purposes should be carried out simultaneously with the second half of the agreed reductions in armed forces and conventional armaments.

The delegations of France and the United Kingdom agree that it is desirable that the reductions in armed forces and conventional armaments should be better co-ordinated with the abolition of nuclear weapons. In order to reach agreement on this point they suggest that the Soviet delegation should agree that the production of nuclear weapons should cease at the earlier stage proposed in paragraph 6 II of the Western Powers' draft resolution of 8 March, instead of at the later stage suggested in the Soviet draft resolution of 19 March (DC/SC.1/19/Rev.1). For their part they would be prepared to agree

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that the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons and the process of eliminating all nuclear stocks should be carried out at the same time as the final quarter of the agreed reductions in armed forces and conventional armaments begins, i.e. when 75 per cent of those reductions have been completed.

This proposal would entail amending the Western draft resolution of 8 March in the following respects (new words underlined):

Paragraph 6 II to read:

"As soon as the control organ reports that it is able effectively to enforce them, the following measures shall enter into effect:

- (a) One-half of the agreed reductions of conventional armaments and armed forces shall take effect;
- (b) On completion of (a), the manufacture of atomic, hydrogen and all other weapons of mass destruction shall cease.

Paragraph 6 III to read:

"As soon as the control organ reports that it is able effectively to enforce them, the following measures shall enter into effect:

- (a) the third quarter of the agreed reductions of conventional armaments and armed forces shall take effect;

(b) on completion of (a), a complete prohibition on the use of atomic, hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction shall come into force. Simultaneously, the elimination of these weapons and the final quarter of the agreed reductions in armed forces and conventional armaments shall begin; and both processes shall be completed within the time-limit laid down in the Disarmament Treaty. All atomic materials shall then be used only for peaceful purposes.

Paragraph 6 III (b) (ii) to be deleted.

The delegations of France and the United Kingdom wish to make it clear that this proposal is dependent on agreement being reached on two essential elements in the disarmament programme, namely, (a) drastic reductions in the armed forces and conventional armaments of the great Powers so that an equilibrium is attained as suggested in the Anglo-French memorandum of 29 March 1955 (DC/SC.1/20), and (b) the institution of an effective system of control which would operate throughout the whole disarmament programme.

