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SECCO affairs 1953

12 November 53

Preliminary analysis conc. modifications in the approach
to the problem of disarmament reflected in the statements
of the U.K., USA, USSR during the debate in the 1st Committee

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The following is a preliminary analysis concerning modifications in the approach to the problem of disarmament reflected in the statements of the United Kingdom, the United States, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and France during the debate in the First Committee:

United Kingdom: Mr. Lloyd expected that the improved international atmosphere would enable some real progress to be made by the Disarmament Commission in the coming year since both sides could negotiate. Progress towards agreement on disarmament in turn would help reduce international tension. There was no alternative to hard work in the Disarmament Commission in preparation for decisions. A new start had to be made.

United States: Mr. Lodge, although considering the settlement of some of the major political issues a prerequisite of disarmament, felt that agreement on a disarmament programme would, in itself, help to reduce tensions. Mr. Lodge emphasized statements by the President and the Secretary of State of the United States according to which it was important to develop a disarmament programme "and particularly do the large amount of technical work which must be done in preparation of any final solution".

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Although Mr. Vyshinsky did not discuss them in his speech, the USSR submitted amendments to the fourteen-power draft resolution proposing that the Commission submit to the Security Council proposals "providing in the first place for a substantial reduction in the armaments of the five powers....".

France: Mr. Moch, in the course of a detailed analysis of the difficulties facing disarmament, outlined again his ideas, presented to the Disarmament Commission on 24 June 1952, on the scheduling of disarmament measures and their synchronization with the procedures of disclosure and verification. Mounting atomic stockpiles and developments in nuclear physics made preferable an early compromise on a control system (theoretically less perfect but quickly acceptable) to a perfect system of which the acceptance would be postponed. In a time of slight relaxation of tension and after the year-long deadlock within the Disarmament Commission, his 1952 suggestions might gain new actuality. The French delegation considered it its duty to work towards a rapprochement of the divergent views of governments, of which none were bent upon aggression, but all feared it.

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Consultation of the Powers principally involved: The revised fourteen-Power resolution provides for such consultation in private. Many speakers referred to the usefulness of the sub-committee which met in 1951 under the chairmanship of Dr. Nervo.

Conclusions: It has been argued that the fourteen-Power draft resolution was formulated moderately to facilitate unanimity and to ensure the Commission's renewed activity.

The three Western Powers and many other speakers expect the Disarmament Commission to undertake in 1953 technical studies of the problem.

Interpretation by the Soviet Union of the term "substantial reduction" may show that the procedures envisaged may not insist upon a proportional formula and may have some similarity to the approach in the Tripartite working paper on the fixing of numerical ceilings on armed forces. The Soviet Union statement indicated a desire for the reconsideration of the principles of disarmament.