

“CALLS UPON the Security Council to determine, as soon as possible, the information which the States Members should be called upon to furnish, in order to give effect to this Resolution.”

This text was, in due course, adopted in sub-committee, first committee, and Plenary Session, by large majorities, against the opposition of the Soviet Union and associated delegations.

4. Regulation and Reduction of Armaments

Once again the initiative came from the Soviet delegation, which presented the following resolution to the Assembly :—

“1. With a view to strengthening peace and international security in conformity with the aims and principles of the United Nations, the General Assembly recognizes the necessity of a general reduction of armaments.

“The implementing of the decision concerning the reduction of armaments should include as primary object the prohibition to produce and use atomic energy for military purposes.

“3. The General Assembly recommends that the Security Council should ensure the effective implementing of the principles laid down in paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

“4. The General Assembly appeals to the Governments of all the States to give to the Security Council all the assistance necessary to enable it to discharge its responsibilities arising out of this task, the achievement of which lies within the scope of its mission to establish an enduring peace and maintain international security. This task is also in the interest of the peoples who would be released from the heavy economic burden caused by the excessive expenditure on armaments which do not correspond to peaceful post-war conditions.”

In introducing the subject in the First Committee Mr Molotov said that the Soviet Union had built up a great army to defend itself and its many peoples from aggression, but, since this aggression had been crushed, now raised the question of disarmament. It would be well if those nations that were most powerful in the air and on the sea would follow this lead. Not only armed personnel, but military techniques and the technical means of war must be considered in the problem of disarmament.

The problem of atomic energy was particularly significant, and a prohibition of its production and use for military purposes was included in the Soviet proposal. All would agree that strict international control of atomic energy was necessary. With this object in view the delegation of the Soviet Union introduced the following supplementary proposal :—

“To ensure the adoption of measures for the reduction of armaments and prohibition of the use of atomic energy for military purposes, there shall be established within the framework of the Security Council, which has the responsibility for international peace and security, international control operating on the basis of a special provision which should provide for the establishment of special organs of inspection for which purpose there shall be formed :

“(a) A Commission for the control of the execution of the decision regarding the reduction of armaments ;