

Of the ten articles and annexes set down for consideration by the Commission, all with the exception of two articles—12 and 13—were adopted after discussion without change and unanimously.

The Greek delegation submitted a series of amendments (C.P., Gen. Doc. 1J21) to Article 9, as well as proposals for the addition of new articles designed to restrict the size and composition of the Bulgarian Armed Forces allowed under the treaty. Long and acrimonious discussion took place on these Greek amendments, but after the United Kingdom and the United States had declared that any proposed independent frontier militia must either be included in the number of the armed forces under Article 9, or declared an illegal organization under Article 11, the Greek amendment was withdrawn.

Similarly, following a further declaration by the United States, supported by the Soviet Union, the Greek amendment (C.P., Gen. Doc. 1J23) requiring the return of Greek war material was withdrawn in conciliatory manner. The United States declaration set out that the interpretation given the word “property” in Article 65 of the draft treaty with Italy should be applied to Article 21 of the draft treaty with Bulgaria.

A Greek amendment for a new article (C.P., Gen. Doc. 1J21) prohibiting the construction of permanent fortifications along the Greco-Bulgarian frontier, where weapons capable of firing into Greek territory could be sited, was carried by a simple majority of 11 votes to 7, with 3 abstentions. The New Zealand delegation felt that the desire of Greece for some guarantee of security to her northern frontier was reasonable and justified. It therefore supported the Greek amendment.

Another Greek amendment to Article 10 proposed that to the weapons prohibited to Bulgaria should be added motor torpedo boats, which craft had been declared to have offensive possibilities and had accordingly been denied to Italy. This proposal was also the subject of very keen opposition from the Eastern Bloc, who, arguments failing, tried by every procedural device to prevent its adoption. Again the New Zealand delegation, following New Zealand Government direction to accord general support to the Greeks, and all the more because a principle of equal treatment to ex-enemy States was involved, supported the amendment, which was carried by 13 votes to 6, with 2 abstentions. This result required the submission of majority and minority reports to the Plenary Conference since a two-thirds majority was not obtained.

It is convenient here to treat of the request to the Military Commission to study the strictly military implications of a Greek amendment (C.P. (MIL), Doc 11), which had been proposed to Article 1 of the treaty in the Territorial and Political Commission for Bulgaria.