

In June the Security Council approved the resolution submitted by the representative of Canada that the whole question of the international control of atomic energy should be laid before the General Assembly "as a matter of special concern"

When the Assembly met at Paris, General A. G. L. McNaughton, speaking for Canada, proposed that the Assembly should approve the general findings and specific proposals put forward by the Atomic Energy Commission. After various amendments, this suggestion was adopted on Nov. 4. At the same time, the General Assembly requested the Atomic Energy Commission to resume its work in an attempt to resolve the impasse, and to take up any further questions which it might be "practicable and useful" to consider.

The record would have been more hopeful if the delegates of the U.S.S.R. had been prepared to put forward alternative plans for the international control of atomic energy that could be compared point by point with the majority proposals, but their suggestions have remained studiously vague.

Thus, in spite of the best efforts of nine out of the eleven members of the Atomic Energy Commission, the year 1948 did not see any significant advance on the road to international control of atomic energy, but rather a hardening of the positions taken up by the majority on the one hand, and by the Soviet Union and its satellites on the other.

Commission for Conventional Armaments.—The year 1948 saw equally limited progress in the field of general disarmament. As a member of the Security Council, Canada sat on the Commission for Conventional Armaments which is a subsidiary organ of the Council. Throughout the year, the deadlock between 'East' and 'West' prevented agreement in the Commission on the general principles which would govern the regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces. The majority of the members, including Canada, took the view that adequate conditions of international security must be established to enable disarmament to proceed safely and equitably, and emphasized the need for a workable system of international inspection and control which would give assurance to all States that no State could take advantage of the disarmament of others. The U.S.S.R., on the other hand, favoured immediate reduction of armaments and armed forces, including atomic weapons, as an essential pre-condition of international security, and argued that any system of inspection and control must be established within the framework of the Security Council (i.e. subject to the veto). At the third session of the General Assembly a Soviet resolution along these lines was opposed by the majority of nations, including Canada, because of doubts as to whether the Soviet Union would permit effective international control and on the ground that the arbitrary arithmetical formula suggested by the U.S.S.R. would leave that country in a position of advantage in relation to those countries which, like the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada, had already substantially reduced their armed forces since the end of the War.

On Nov. 19, 1948, the General Assembly adopted a resolution that the Commission for Conventional Armaments should continue its work in formulating proposals for the general regulation and reduction of armaments.

Berlin Currency Dispute.—On Sept. 29 the Governments of the United Kingdom, United States and France referred the Berlin Dispute to the Security Council as a threat to international peace and security. The cause of the dispute, a Soviet imposed blockade on Berlin, had been in existence three months.