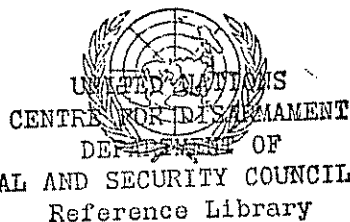


UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



GENERAL

A/C.1/686

22 December 1951

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH  
FRENCH

Dual distribution

Sixth session  
FIRST COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 66

REGULATION, LIMITATION AND BALANCED REDUCTION  
OF ALL ARMED FORCES AND ALL ARMAMENTS

Letter dated 1 December 1951 from the delegation of Poland concerning  
an appeal to the United Nations by the World Peace Council

The delegation of Poland to the United Nations has been informed that on 26 November 1951 the World Peace Council submitted an appeal to the United Nations and a resolution adopted by its Second Session in Vienna, on 6 November 1951.

The delegation of Poland requests the publication of the above-mentioned resolution and appeal as a United Nations document and its circulation to all delegations.

I avail myself, etc.

(signed) Henryk Birecki  
Permanent Representative of Poland  
to the United Nations

Vienna, 6 November 1951

The World Peace Council assembled in Vienna addresses the following message to the General Assembly of the United Nations and to public opinion and to the peoples of the whole world: The deterioration of the international situation during recent months is a source of anxiety and concern to men and women in every country. All desire negotiation and a general agreement among the five great Powers, in which the responsibility for world peace is vested by the provisions of the Charter and by the very fact of their strength. The World Peace Council's campaign for a five-Power pact is therefore justified in the eyes of world public opinion by the course of events and by the present ineffectiveness of other methods. In particular, the Council draws the General Assembly's attention to the following points:

Firstly, peace and international co-operation cannot be achieved by imposing on the whole world decisions taken by a majority of Member States, which more often than not represent a minority of the human race. The proper processes for attaining the settlements necessary for the peaceful development of the world, settlements which must also cover Asia in particular, are negotiation and conciliation. Justice and a realistic view of international politics require that the Government of the People's Republic of China should be admitted to the United Nations.

Secondly, the failure of the conference of the four Deputy Foreign Ministers and the agreements reached in Washington and Ottawa by the Sixth Session of the Atlantic Council are an obstacle to action in favour of disarmament, are preventing the German people from making its own decision concerning German reunification and aggravate the danger of war in Europe. Negotiations between the great Powers can lead more rapidly to the creation of a united, democratic and de-militarized Germany. Such a solution is in keeping with the wishes of the vast majority of the German people, with the interests of Germany's neighbours and with the interests of peace. The World Peace Council accordingly urges the United Nations to use its influence to secure observance of the international agreements concerning the disarming of Germany and to expedite the conclusion of a peace treaty, which would make it possible for the occupation forces to be withdrawn and for Germany to be reconstituted as a unified and de-militarized country. Thirdly, the restoration

/of peace

of peace in Asia is a matter of concern to all mankind. Its restoration, which has been seriously jeopardized by the treaties concluded with Japan at San Francisco, requires not only the termination by armistice agreements of the hostilities in progress in Korea in the first instance, but also guarantees of the right of the Asian peoples to independence and territorial integrity without foreign interference. Fourthly, peace in the Middle East and North Africa cannot be satisfactorily assured by the continued existence of arrangements and situations that are incompatible with the right of self-determination. The right of the peoples of Egypt, Iran, Morocco and of all the other countries of the Near and Middle East and of North Africa to administer and settle their own affairs without pressure, foreign intervention, or military occupation, whether open or concealed, should receive effective recognition. Fifthly, the armaments race can bring the peoples nothing but the certainty of ruin and the threat of a war fraught with disaster for mankind. A policy of simultaneous, progressive and efficiently supervised disarmament must therefore be pursued, including the banning of atomic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, the use of which is condemned by universally accepted standards of morality. The World Peace Council requests the General Assembly of the United Nations to consider the disarmament proposal it has adopted in Vienna today, 6 November 1951. The strict system of supervision which the proposal recommends can in no case produce a disequilibrium prejudicing or favouring any particular State. The proposal guarantees security at each stage of disarmament. The World Peace Council's disarmament proposal is reproduced in the annex to this document. The Council is convinced that war is not inevitable, that the peaceful co-existence of different political and social regimes is possible, and that its proposals conform to the interests of all mankind.

We have the honour, etc.

Annex:

Resolution on disarmament

The armaments race is breeding economic chaos, driving peoples to ruin and can lead only to war. It is wrong to claim that excessive armaments can be used as an effective means of negotiation. The armaments race which is now proceeding, when countries are ignorant of the armaments of other countries,

/produces

produces distrust. Security can be gained only by equitable and supervised disarmament. We therefore call upon the five great Powers -- the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Chinese People's Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and France -- which are the most heavily armed and which, pursuant to the Charter of San Francisco, are responsible for safeguarding world peace, to conclude a disarmament convention and so prove their peaceful intentions.

#### Prohibition of weapons of mass destruction

By the convention the five great Powers should agree to place an absolute ban on atomic weapons, the production of armaments from atomic energy and other weapons of mass destruction. This ban will be enforced by a strict control applicable to declared armaments and installations and also to armaments and installations the existence of which is presumed.

#### Progressive and simultaneous armaments reduction

Under the convention the five great Powers should agree progressively to reduce armaments of all types subject to supervision. We recommend a reduction which before the end of 1952 would affect one-third to one-half of all declared, verified and recognized armaments, through the application of a system which will ensure the security of all at each stage of disarmament. We propose that the ratios and time schedules for the reduction of various types of arms, armed forces and arms production should be fixed with reference both to the existing level of arms, armed forces and arms production, and to the number of inhabitants, length of frontiers and system of communications of each country.

#### Control and census

If adopted, this international convention to place a binding ban on atomic weapons and to require a reduction by one-third to one-half in all armaments, will lead to a general census of all types of weapons and armed forces and the application of an international control to verify the measures prescribed in the convention. The international control will be applicable to the declarations of signatories to the convention and also to arms, armed forces and means of armaments production, which, though not declared, are presumed to exist.

/Our appeal,

Our appeal, which conforms to the spirit in which the resolutions of the second World Peace Conference, held at Warsaw from 16 to 22 September 1950, were drafted, is made to the United Nations, the five great Powers and to the people. Although it may not please armaments manufacturers, the progressive and simultaneous reduction of armaments -- a step in the direction of total disarmament -- will remove fears of aggression, strengthen the security of all peoples and relieve them of crushing burdens.

Frederic Joliot Curie  
President of the World Peace Council

Vice President

Pietro Nenni  
Rapporteur

