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DISARMAMENT

A SELECTED CHRONOLOGY

January 1, 1918–March 19, 1956

STAFF STUDY NO. 2

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

UNITED STATES SENATE

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PREFACE

By Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Chairman

The development of nuclear energy has had a tremendous impact on military and foreign policy. I can readily understand, therefore, why so much of the discussion concerning disarmament or the control and reduction of armaments over the past 10 years has centered on the weapons which have been derived from this new source of power.

Spectacular new weapons, however, are only one aspect of the problem. The question is many-sided and in one form or another has been with the human race for a long time.

During the years between World War I and II, attempts to deal with the issue of disarmament were intense and continuous. I am sure they kindled great hopes among the nations and peoples of the world at the time they were made. Today, these attempts are scarcely remembered or, if they are, it is with emphasis on their failure to prevent war. That is the case, for example, with the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 and the Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928 which virtually every nation on earth signed in a vain attempt to "outlaw war."

There is a sober warning to the American people in the experiences with disarmament in the past. There is also much in them that is pertinent to the problem as it confronts us today. These past experiences can help us to avoid the pitfalls of either unwarranted optimism or blind futility. They can, in short, provide us with essential historical perspective in dealing with the question of disarmament.

This chronology, Staff Study No. 2, which I have had compiled, is intended to provide a concise and factual outline of developments in disarmament and related events over the past four decades. It was prepared by Virginia W. Brewer, Foreign Affairs Division, Library of Congress, under the direction of the subcommittee staff. In the selection of developments for inclusion in the chronology, emphasis has been placed on those which have most directly involved the United States and our foreign policies. The study is intended for background use. It does not necessarily reflect the views of the subcommittee or any of its members.

APRIL 20, 1956.

DISARMAMENT

A SELECTED CHRONOLOGY: JANUARY 1, 1918–MARCH 19, 1956

1918

Jan. 8: **President Woodrow Wilson propounds "Fourteen Points"—the fourth point envisaging "that national armaments will be reduced to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety."**

1919

June 28: **Treaty of Versailles is signed after World War I by Germany and the Allies.**

Part V provided for a future general limitation of armaments, for a demobilization amounting to the disarmament of Germany, and for the prohibition of the manufacture or importation of poisonous gases and analogous materials. The treaty also provided for Interallied Military, Naval, and Air Commissions of Control of Germany (which were abolished respectively in the following years: Military, 1927; Naval, 1924; Air, 1921).

The Saar Annex of the Treaty of Versailles establishing the Government of the Territory of the Saar (par. 30) provided that "there will be no military service, whether compulsory or voluntary, in the territory of the Saar Basin, and the construction of fortification therein is forbidden. Only a gendarmerie for the maintenance of order may be established. * * *"

The United States Senate rejected the treaty on March 19, 1920. (See January 24, 1921.)

Sept. 10: **Convention for the Control of Traffic in Arms is signed at St. Germain-en-Laye.**

Signatories were: Belgium, Bolivia, the British Empire, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, the Hedjaz, Italy, Japan, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, the Serb-Croat-Slovene State, Siam, and the United States.

This Convention defined and enumerated armies and dealt with the control of munitions and implements of war, as well as the general trade in them, and included land and sea supervision. Its provisions were closely interwoven with the League of Nations provisions concerning armaments and their control. The Convention never went into effect. It did, however, serve as a basis for subsequent discussion and was used extensively in the preparation of the Convention of June 17, 1925.

1919

Sept. 10: **Treaty of Peace Between the Allied and Associated Powers and Austria is signed at St. Germain-en-Laye.**

The treaty contained provision for a reduction in Austria's armaments, placing a specific limit on the size of the Austrian Army, and banned the manufacture and importation of flame throwers, poisonous gases, and similar materials. This Treaty was typical of the peace treaties after World War I, all of which contained provision for the limitation of the armaments of the defeated countries. (The Treaty of Trianon with Hungary was signed June 4, 1919, and the Treaty of Neuilly with Bulgaria was signed November 27, 1919. The Treaty of Sevres with Turkey never went into effect; it was superseded by the treaty signed at Lausanne July 24, 1923.)

1920

Jan. 10: **Covenant of the League of Nations comes into force.**

Disarmament was among the problems to which the League was expected to devote attention. The Third Committee of the Assembly was assigned responsibility for developing a program for the reduction of armaments.

May 9: **Permanent Advisory Commission on Armaments is created by the League of Nations.**

The Commission was to advise the Council of the League on military matters. Military, Naval, and Aerial Subcommissions were set up at the first session August 3–5, 1920.

Oct. 14: **Peace treaty is signed between Finland and the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic.**

In this treaty and another between these two parties concerning the peace settlement (Aaland Islands Convention of 1921) arrangements for defortification of certain areas and limitation of armaments on the part of Finland only were made. In a 1922 convention both parties agreed to disarmament measures (see June 1, 1922).

1921

Jan. 24: **United States signs separate peace treaty with Germany (following World War I), which encompasses the clauses of the Versailles Treaty covering disarmament.**

Feb. 25: **Temporary Mixed Commission for the Reduction of Armaments is established by a resolution of the Council of the League of Nations.**

The Temporary Mixed Commission was composed of civilians and military experts. It came into being as a result of the proposal of the Norwegian delegation to the Assembly of the League of Nations.

The Commission worked in close cooperation with the Permanent Advisory Commission. Together they pre-

1921

pared a Draft Treaty of Mutual Assistance concerned with mutual defense as a basis of disarmament.

A Committee of Experts on Chemical and Bacteriological Warfare was set up by the Temporary Mixed Commission, whose purpose was "to show to the public opinion of the world the effects which would be produced by the most powerful means of destruction placed at the service of modern warfare by modern science." (It met in Paris in 1924.)

The Temporary Mixed Commission was succeeded by the Coordination Commission. (See October 3, 1924.)

Nov. 12: **Washington Conference on Naval Armaments meets in response to an invitation extended to Great Britain, Japan, France, and Italy by President Harding.**

Invitations were then extended to include China, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Portugal. (See Feb. 6, 1922.)

Dec. 6: **Treaty between Great Britain and Ireland is signed at London.**

Part VIII limited the military defense force of the Irish Free State to such proportion of the military establishments maintained in Great Britain as that which the population of Ireland bore to the population of Great Britain.

1922

Feb. 6: **Limitation of Naval Armaments Treaty is signed by France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, and the United States, at Washington.**

The treaty limited the total tonnage of aircraft carriers and restricted the total number of capital ships of each of the 5 nations participating, in a ratio of Britain, 5; the United States, 5; Japan, 3; France, 1.67; and Italy, 1.67. A 10-year naval holiday was declared by the signatories during which no new capital ships were to be constructed and none replaced unless they were 20 or more years old.

Treaty * * * To Prevent the Use of Submarines and Noxious Gases in Warfare is signed at Washington by the British Empire, France, Italy, Japan, and the United States.

The treaty was also concerned with the protection of the lives of neutrals and noncombatants at sea in time of war. Consent to ratification was given by the United States Senate, March 29, 1922; but the treaty was not ratified by France and thus never entered into effect.

June 1: **Convention between the Republic of Finland and the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic limits the armed forces of both parties in the frontier zones.**

1922

Sept. 27: **The League of Nations Assembly adopts a resolution embodying principles governing the reduction of armaments.**

The principles enunciated were: (*a*) the reduction must be general; (*b*) no reduction without a safety guaranty; (*c*) safety guaranty possibly by means of a defensive agreement providing immediate assistance from a nearby country; and (*d*) a reduction of armaments as the first condition of a treaty of mutual guaranty which might be brought about by a general treaty or by partial treaties.

Dec. 2: **Disarmament conference meets at Moscow.**

The conference was held at the initiative of the U. S. S. R. and attended by Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Finland. (Rumania was invited, but did not participate.) The purpose of the conference was to secure a substantial measure of disarmament as between the Soviet Union and neighboring countries. The conference failed to reach agreement.

1923

Feb. 7: **Convention on the Limitation of Armaments of Central American States is signed by Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador.**

In force from November 24, 1924, it provided that for a period of 5 years the armies of the member countries would be limited to specified numbers (National Guard included); naval and war aircraft were to be limited except in case of civil war or threatened attack from outside; asphyxiating gases and analogous substances or devices were banned; and the contracting governments agreed to submit to one another reports on measures adopted for the execution of this convention.

March 7: **Fifth International Conference of American States commits its members to the prohibition of the use of poisonous gases as provided in the second Washington Treaty.** **(See Feb. 6, 1922.)**

May 3: **League of Nations Temporary Mixed Commission asks the United States to state the general lines on which it would be willing to cooperate in solving the problem of the control of the international trade in arms.**

The answer was confined to a reiteration of the view that the United States Government did not have the constitutional power to enter into a treaty providing for the control of private manufacture of arms.

In 1932 the United States delegation to the Disarmament Conference was instructed by the Secretary of State that the earlier position was not well taken and that in view of ratification of recent treaties and decisions of the Supreme Court the Government did have the power to enter into such a treaty.

1923

May 23: **Continental Treaty for the Avoidance or Prevention of Conflicts Between American States is signed at Santiago de Chile.**

The treaty was signed by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela. It did not lay down any fixed total for military armament but sought to insure pacific settlement of disputes, and provided that the signatory states would not mobilize or concentrate troops on their frontiers.

July 7: **League of Nations Council authorizes the publication of a military yearbook.**

On September 27, 1923, the Temporary Mixed Commission submitted for publication statistical material on the armaments in different countries which had been collected from various official sources. To this was added information on the imports and exports of arms from all governments, which the Secretary General was instructed by the League of Nations Council to collect and to publish. This was the beginning of the Armaments Yearbook, which was published annually until 1939–40.

July 24: **Convention on the Regime of the Straits is signed at Lausanne by Bulgaria, France, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Japan, Rumania, Russia, Turkey, and Yugoslavia.**

This treaty, signed the same day as the peace treaty of Lausanne, provided in part for the demilitarization of various areas in the regions near Turkey, specifically those adjoining the European frontier, the Dardanelles, and the Bosporus.

Sept. 27: **League of Nations Assembly begins consideration of Draft Treaty of Mutual Assistance.**

The draft treaty put forward the following principles: (1) That disarmament must be general; (2) that disarmament must depend on satisfactory guaranties of security; (3) that such guaranties must be general; (4) that such guaranties must be made conditional on the reduction of armaments.

With respect to this draft the United States took the position that since the fundamental principle of the draft treaty was to provide guaranties of mutual assistance under the authority of the Council of the League, and since the United States was not a member of the League of Nations, the United States would not find it possible to adhere to the treaty.

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1924

Oct. 2: **Geneva Protocol, 1924, for the pacific settlement of international disputes is unanimously recommended by the League of Nations.**

The protocol provided for compulsory arbitration of all disputes and defined the aggressor as the nation unwilling to submit its case to arbitration. Among its provisions was one for participation in an international conference. This protocol was finally rejected.

Oct. 3: **Coordination Commission is constituted by the League of Nations.**

The Coordination Commission replaced the Temporary Mixed Commission in dealing with disarmament questions. It met only from February 16 to 18, 1925, and was dissolved. (See February 25, 1921.)

1925

June 17: **Convention for the Supervision of the International Trade in Arms, Ammunition, and Implements of War is signed at Geneva.**

The convention, frequently referred to as the Arms Traffic Convention, was approved on June 6, 1935, by the United States Senate and ratified with reservations. Also ratifying with reservations were the British Empire, Denmark, France, and Sweden. The following countries ratified without reservations: Bulgaria, Canada, China, Egypt, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, and Venezuela. However, since only 9 of the 14 ratifications required were without reservations, the convention did not enter into force.

Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous, or Other Gases and Bacteriological Methods of Warfare is signed at Geneva.

The protocol entered into force on February 8, 1928, and by 1938 was adhered to by 41 States. The United States signed the protocol but did not ratify it. The Senate objected on grounds largely unrelated to the intent of the protocol.

Oct. 16: **Locarno Treaties of arbitration and mutual guaranty are signed by Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, and Poland.**

A series of similar pacts was signed by the U. S. S. R. with neighboring countries between 1926 and 1932. All of these security treaties were widely regarded at the time as a prelude to general disarmament.

1925

Dec. 12: **Preparatory Commission is constituted by the Council of the League of Nations "to prepare for a conference on the reduction and limitation of armaments."**

The Preparatory Commission held sessions from May 18, 1926, to December 1930 to prepare for the disarmament conference. The United States participated in the deliberations of the Commission from 1926 onward. Soviet representatives were present from 1927 onward.

1927

Mar. 25: **Preparatory Commission on Disarmament adjourns after the British and French delegations present preliminary drafts of a convention on limitation and reduction of armaments from which the draft convention later developed.**

June 20: **Geneva Naval Conference (or "Coolidge Conference") meets at the suggestion of President Coolidge to discuss limiting construction of types of vessels not covered by the Washington Agreement of 1922.**

Great Britain and Japan participated, but France and Italy refused. The Conference failed to reach agreement.

Nov. 30: **Committee on Arbitration and Security is constituted by the Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference.**

The duty of the Committee was "to consider * * * measures capable of giving all states the guarantees of arbitration and security necessary to enable them to fix the level of their armaments at the lowest possible figures in an international disarmament agreement."

The Committee held periodic meetings from December 1, 1927, through July 4, 1928, and again April 28–May 9, 1930.

Dec. 3: **During a session of the Preparatory Commission at Geneva, the Soviet Union proposes complete and immediate disarmament.**

The proposal made by Maxim Litvinov was generally mistrusted and resisted by all but the German and Turkish delegations.

1928

July 8: **Anglo-French naval compromise of 1928 is announced in the British House of Commons.**

In addition to the agreed provisions limiting naval armaments between the two countries, there were those dealing with land and air armaments; but on these matters there was no agreement.

1928

Aug. 27: **Treaty for the Renunciation of War (Kellogg-Briand Pact or Pact of Paris) is signed by Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, India, Irish Free State, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Poland, Union of South Africa, and the United States.**

At the same time, the Governments of France and the United States issued invitations to 48 other states to join with the original signatories in adhering to the document.

The Soviet Union deposited its adherence on August 31, 1928. By 1930 all self-governing states, with the exception of three South American Republics, had adhered to the pact.

1929

Feb. 9: **Protocol for putting into force the Treaty for the Renunciation of War (the "Litvinov Protocol") is signed in Moscow by Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Rumania, and the Soviet Union.**

The pact was similar in provision and intent to the Kellogg-Briand Pact, the stipulations of which it sought to bring into effect between the Soviet Union and its neighboring states. (See August 27, 1928.)

1930

Apr. 22: **Treaty for the Limitation and Reduction of Naval Armament is signed in London by Great Britain, the United States, France, Italy, and Japan.**

The treaty sought to regulate submarine warfare and extended the limitations provided for by the Washington Treaty of 1922. The United States, Great Britain, and Japan agreed to scrap certain warships by 1933 and allocate tonnage in heavy cruisers to a 10–10–6 ratio, with parity granted in submarines. The agreements were to run until 1936.

Ratifications were deposited by the United States (July 21, 1930), Great Britain, the British Dominions, India, the Irish Free State, and Japan. France and Italy ratified only relatively unimportant clauses.

Oct. 30: **Greece and Turkey sign a protocol designed to prevent competition in naval armaments (the "Angora Protocol").**

Dec. 9: **Preparatory Commission on Disarmament adopts a draft convention to be submitted to a disarmament conference in February 1932.**

The outstanding provisions of the draft convention were: (*a*) the military personnel of states were to be subject to limitation, without regard, however, to the size of each state's trained reserves; (*b*) the period of service for conscript forces was to be limited; (*c*) land war material was to be subject to budgetary limitation; (*d*) naval war material was to be limited in accordance with the terms of the

Washington Conference (1922) and the London Naval Conference (1930); (*e*) air armaments were to be restricted according to horsepower; (*f*) chemical and bacteriological warfare were to be prohibited; (*g*) a permanent Disarmament Commission was to be established.

1931

Mar. 7: **Turkey and the Soviet Union sign a protocol designed to prevent competition in naval armaments.**

Sept. 18: **Japanese troops begin offensive in Manchuria.**

1932

Feb. 2: **Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments or general "Disarmament Conference" of the League of Nations meets at Geneva.**

Sixty nations were represented including the United States. The Conference or subsidiary bodies continued meeting until May 31, 1937. (See also May 31, 1937.)

Mar. 15: **Political Commission of the Disarmament Conference appoints a Committee on Moral Disarmament.**

This Committee, formed at the instigation of Poland, was to consider measures which governments might take in order to insure that public information, imparted by means of the press, broadcasting, or the cinema, might be inspired with mutual respect and good understanding between nations.

June 22: **President Hoover sends a statement to the Disarmament Conference, suggesting that while existing relativity in armaments should be preserved, reduction contemplated by the Conference must be real and must effect economic relief.**

On the basis of these proposals by President Hoover, the United States delegation to the Conference proposed that the world arms level should be reduced by almost one-third.

July 23: **Disarmament Conference makes a pronouncement in favor of a substantial reduction of armaments, the prohibition of certain methods of war, including chemical, incendiary, and bacteriological weapons, and makes a distinction between "defensive" and "offensive" weapons (the latter to be ultimately abolished).**

1933

Mar. 27: **Japan announces its withdrawal from the League of Nations.**

May 19: **President Roosevelt sends a message to the Disarmament Conference.**

The aim of the Conference, he envisaged, "must be the complete elimination of offensive weapons." He suggested that pending agreement on disarmament measures, no state should actually increase its armaments and that all nations should enter into a solemn nonaggression pact.

1933

June 8: **New draft convention based on British proposals is unanimously accepted by the Disarmament Conference as a basis for the future convention.**

The draft convention called for the limitation and reduction of war materials and forces, with exact figures suggested for each of the European states; for the reduction of tonnage and firepower of warships and destroyers, and the complete abolition of submarines; and for the limitation of the number of aircraft, providing ultimately for the complete abolition of military and naval aircraft.

Oct. 19: **Germany announces withdrawal from the Disarmament Conference and from the League of Nations (October 23).**

1934

Apr. 12: **United States Senate authorizes Senate Munitions Investigating Committee to inquire into the manufacture of and traffic in arms.**

The hearings held by this committee under the chairmanship of Senator Gerald P. Nye "set the domestic background" for the neutrality legislation of 1935, 1936, and 1937. (See August 31, 1935.)

May 28: **United States Congress by Joint Resolution authorizes the President to prohibit the sale of arms to the countries engaged in the Chaco Dispute between Bolivia and Paraguay.**

May 29: **Disarmament Conference assembles for the last time.**

The Conference met until June 16 and several special subcommittees were established to make further study of various aspects of the disarmament problem. The Bureau of the Disarmament Conference continued in existence (but held few meetings) until May 31, 1937.

Dec. 29: **Japan gives notice that on December 31, 1936, it will terminate the Naval Limitation Treaty of 1922.**

1935

Mar. 16: **Germany denounces clauses of the Treaty of Versailles concerning disarmament.**

Germany contended this step was based on the failure of the other powers to disarm as provided in the peace treaty. The League of Nations formally condemned this unilateral repudiation of the Versailles Treaty by Germany.

June 18: **Anglo-German Naval Agreement sets a ratio respecting the naval armaments of these two Governments.**

Aug. 31: **United States puts into effect the Neutrality Act of 1935, the first of a series of such laws forbidding or regulating the export of munitions to belligerents.**

Other Neutrality Acts were passed in 1936, 1937, and 1939.

1935

Oct. 2: **Ethiopia notifies the League of Nations that Italian troops have violated her borders.**

Oct. 11: **League of Nations Assembly votes sanctions against Italy, for having "resorted to war in disregard of Article XII" of the League Covenant.**

Though the decision was made to apply article XVI of the League Covenant providing for sanctions, neither military sanctions nor a naval blockade were invoked. The series of gradual and selective economic sanctions applied were made ineffective by the omission of some minerals that were critically important to Italy, such as petroleum and copper.

1936

Mar. 7: **Germany reoccupies the Rhineland in violation of the Treaty of Versailles and the Locarno Treaties.**

Mar. 25: **Treaty for the Limitation of Naval Armaments is signed at London.**

This treaty was "to make provision for the limitation of naval armament, and for the exchange of information concerning naval construction * * * ." It was signed by Australia, Canada, France, Great Britain, India, New Zealand, and the United States, "in view of the forthcoming expiration of" the Treaties for the Limitation of Armaments of 1922 and 1930.

July 18: **Civil war breaks out in Spain.**

July 20: **Montreux Convention replaces the Treaty of Lausanne (1923) and gives Turkey the right to remilitarize the zones around the Straits of the Dardanelles and the Bosporus.**

1937

May 31: **Bureau of the Disarmament Conference holds its last meeting.**

July 7: **Fighting breaks out between the Chinese and Japanese in North China marking the beginning of the Sino-Japanese War.**

Without declaring war Japan invaded China and by March 1939 was in occupation of large tracts of Chinese territory south of the Great Wall.

July 17: **United Kingdom signs bilateral agreements with Germany and the U. S. S. R. concerning naval armaments.**

The agreements followed the London Naval Treaty of 1936 in some respects but excepted certain categories of vessels. Pursuant to this and the 1935 agreement, Germany commenced rebuilding its navy.

1938

Mar. 13: **Germany annexes Austria.**

Sept. 30: **Munich Agreement is signed.**
Great Britain was represented by Prime Minister Chamberlain, France by Premier Daladier, Germany by Hitler. Mussolini was an observer. The agreement led to the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia.

1939

Aug. 23: **Nazi-Soviet pact of nonaggression is signed.**

Sept. 1: **World War II begins with the German invasion of Poland.**
The Soviet Union joined in the attack on September 17, 1939.

Nov. 4: **United States Neutrality Act is modified to end the embargo on shipments of arms to belligerents and authorization is provided for "cash and carry" exports of arms.**

Nov. 30: **Soviet Union invades Finland.**

1940

Sept. 27: **Germany, Italy, and Japan conclude a three-power pact, at Berlin, pledging total aid for a period of ten years [the "Tripartite Pact"].**

1941

June 22: **Germany invades the Soviet Union.**

Aug. 14: **Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt declare eight principles for a better future for the world (the Atlantic Charter).**
One of these principles was: To disarm the aggressor nations pending the establishment of a wider and permanent system of general security and at the same time to aid and encourage all practicable measures for lightening the burden of armaments for all peace-loving peoples.

Dec. 7: **Japan attacks the United States at Pearl Harbor.**
The attack was followed by a declaration of war against Japan by the United States on December 8. On December 11, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States.

1942

Jan. 1: **Twenty-six nations sign the Declaration of United Nations, at Washington.**
The signatories subscribed to "a common program of purposes and principles embodied in" the Atlantic Charter and pledged to cooperate fully in the war against the members of the Tripartite Pact.

1944

Aug. 21: **Dumbarton Oaks Conference meets in Washington, to consider the means of maintaining international peace and security upon the conclusion of World War II.**

The Conference was attended by representatives of China, Great Britain, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the United States. It laid the groundwork for the United Nations and envisioned many of the proposals including those respecting disarmament later embodied in its charter. The conference adjourned October 7.

1945

Feb. 11: **Crimean (Yalta) Conference Protocol is signed by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and Premier Stalin, section III providing for the complete disarmament of Germany.**

May 7: **Germany surrenders.**

June 26: **Charter of the United Nations is signed.**

The charter came into force on October 24, 1945. It assigned the United Nations major responsibilities in the field of disarmament, peaceful settlement, and enforcement.

Aug. 1: **Berlin (Potsdam) Conference Protocol is signed by President Truman, Premier Stalin, and Prime Minister Attlee.**

Among its provisions were those for the abolition of all German armed forces, the destruction of all German armaments, and elimination or control of all German industry that could be used for military production, to the end that Germany should be completely disarmed and demilitarized.

Aug. 6: **Atomic bomb is dropped on Hiroshima, after prior warning is given to Japan to evacuate principal cities.**

President Truman, in a subsequent announcement, said: "I shall recommend that the Congress of the United States consider promptly the establishment of an appropriate commission to control the production and the use of atomic energy within the United States. I shall give further consideration and make further recommendations to the Congress as to how atomic power can become a powerful and forceful influence toward the maintenance of world peace."

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1945

Aug. 9: **President Truman sets forth the United States position on the atomic bomb.**

"The atomic bomb," he said, "is too dangerous to be loose in a lawless world. That is why Great Britain and the United States, who have the secret of its production, do not intend to reveal the secret until means have been found to control the bomb so as to protect ourselves and the rest of the world from the danger of total destruction * * *.

"We must constitute ourselves trustees of this new force—to prevent its misuse, and to turn it into the channels of service to mankind."

Sept. 2: **Japan signs formal terms of surrender.**

On July 26, 1946, Japan was offered formal surrender terms by the United States, Great Britain, and China. These terms included provision for complete disarmament of Japanese military forces, and gave warning that "complete destruction, * * * utter devastation, * * * annihilation" not only of armed forces but also of the homeland would result if Japan refused the terms offered.

Oct. 3: **Four-Nation declaration on general security is signed at Moscow by the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and China.**

The declaration included a clause aimed to insure "the least diversion of the world's human and economic resources for armaments" and "to bring about a practical agreement with respect to the regulation of armaments in the postwar period."

Nov. 15: **Three-Power declaration on atomic energy is issued at Washington, D. C., by the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and the Prime Minister of Canada.**

The declaration stated: "We are prepared to share, on a reciprocal basis with others of the United Nations, detailed information concerning the practical industrial application of atomic energy just as soon as effective enforceable safeguards against its use for destructive purposes can be devised * * *."

Dec. 27: **Soviet Union concurs in the principles outlined in the Declaration of November 15, 1945, and becomes a cosponsor of a resolution calling for the establishment of a U. N. Atomic Energy Commission by the U. N. General Assembly.**

1946

Jan. 24: **U. N. General Assembly creates the Atomic Energy Commission by unanimous resolution.**

The Commission was to consist of all members of the Security Council together with Canada when it was not a member of the Security Council. Its principal task was to work out a plan under which nations would agree to place the production of atomic energy under international control, so as to insure its use for peaceful purposes only, and to bring about the total prohibition of atomic weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

June 14: **Bernard M. Baruch, in U. N. Atomic Energy Commission, outlines a United States plan for control of atomic energy.**

In the plan, which was based on the Acheson-Lilienthal report of March 16, 1946, the United States proposed the creation of an International Atomic Development Authority, to which would be entrusted all phases of the development and use of atomic energy with managerial control of potentially dangerous atomic energy activities and power to control, inspect, and license all other atomic activities.

The United States proposed that once an adequate system of control was agreed upon, manufacture of atomic bombs would stop, existing bombs would be disposed of, and the authority would be in possession of full information for the production of atomic energy.

June 19: **Soviet Union advocates a convention providing for the outlawing of the production and use of atomic weapons.**

The proposed convention provided for the destruction of all stocks of atomic weapons within a period of 3 months after its adoption and the enactment of national enforcement legislation within 6 months. This was to be followed by further consideration by the Commission of means of exchanging information and possible methods of control.

Aug. 1: **United States Atomic Energy Control Act (the McMahon Act) becomes effective.**

The act provided for the establishment of a civilian Atomic Energy Commission to own and control on behalf of the United States all resources and developments in atomic energy in the United States of America.

The Commission (appointed October 28, 1946) was to take over atomic production and control from the Army on January 1, 1947.

1946

Dec. 14: **U. N. General Assembly adopts unanimously a resolution, based on a United States proposal, calling on the Security Council to give prompt consideration to the problem of safeguards in connection with the control of atomic energy and the regulation and reduction of armaments.**

1947

Feb. 13: **Security Council votes, 10–0, with the Soviet Union abstaining, to establish a Commission for Conventional Armaments.**

May 3: **Constitution of Japan (1947) is adopted renouncing war and the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes, and providing that "land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained." (Art. 9.)**

June 11: **U. S. S. R. makes additional proposals for an international agreement on the control of atomic energy.**

The proposals elaborated those offered the previous year (see June 19, 1946), and endorsed the concept of an international control commission, within the framework of the U. N. Security Council, however, where the veto would apply.

Sept. 2: **Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance is signed at Rio de Janeiro by 21 American Republics.**

The treaty provided that an armed attack against any American state would be considered as an attack on all American states and each agreed to undertake to assist in meeting such attack. It also provided for consultation and action, not only in the event of armed attacks and other acts of aggression, but whenever any other fact or situation might endanger the peace of the Americas.

1948

Mar. 17: **The Brussels Treaty is signed by Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.**

The 50-year treaty made provision for economic, social, and cultural collaboration and collective defense. It became the basis for subsequent European collaboration including armaments control arrangements under the Western European Union.

Mar. 30: **Control Committee of the U. N. Atomic Energy Commission adjourns indefinitely.**

Delegates from the United States, Great Britain, France, Belgium, and Canada asserted that there was no use prolonging a stalemated debate and placed the blame for the impasse on the Soviet Union's refusal to accept the majority's atomic control plan. The Commission, however, was not dissolved. In its third report on May 17, 1948, the Commission stated that it had reached an "impasse."

1948

June 11: **"Vandenberg Resolution" is adopted by the Senate by a vote of 64 to 4.**

The resolution called for universal regulation and reduction of armaments, for the use of armed force only in the common interest, and for the progressive development of regional and other collective arrangements for self-defense in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

Aug. 12: **U. N. Commission for Conventional Armaments recommends principles for a system for regulating and reducing armaments and armed forces.**

Among the principles were those declaring that a system must provide for adherence of all states and initially must include all states having substantial military resources, and that it could be put into effect only in an atmosphere of international confidence.

Oct. 2: **Soviet Union proposes that the U. N. Atomic Energy Commission resume work and write two conventions—one to prohibit atomic weapons and one to provide international atomic controls.**

Oct. 19: **Western Powers agree to revive the suspended U. N. Atomic Energy Commission.**

Oct. 20: **U. N. Political Committee rejects Soviet resolution for simultaneous conventions on prohibition of atomic weapons and control of atomic energy.**

Nov. 4: **U. N. General Assembly approves the plan of the Atomic Energy Commission, based upon United States proposal.**

Under this plan an international agency would control the production of atomic energy and raw materials, grant licenses to states to set up atomic undertakings for peaceful purposes, and inspect the territories of all nations to prevent and detect secret production of atomic energy and other violations of the agreed plan.

Only the Soviet bloc voted against the plan, holding that it would give the international control agency arbitrary control over the life and development of other states.

Nov. 19: **General Assembly recommends that the Security Council make a study of and proposals for an arms census.**

1949

Feb. 10: **U. N. Security Council votes for the resumption of work by the U. N. Commission for Conventional Armaments with emphasis on gathering and verifying military data from all U. N. members.**

Feb. 18: **U. N. Atomic Energy Commission resumes meetings after 9 months.**

1949

Feb. 25: **U. S. S. R. calls for "preparation of a draft convention for the prohibition of atomic weapons and a draft convention for the control of atomic energy," both conventions to be concluded and to come into force simultaneously.**

Feb. 26: **Export Control Act of United States gives the President authority to regulate the export of strategic materials.**

This act was extended by acts of Congress dated May 16, 1951, and June 16, 1953.

Apr. 4: **North Atlantic Treaty is signed in Washington.**

Signatories were Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom, and the United States. The treaty was later adhered to by Greece, Turkey, and the Federal Republic of Germany. The parties agreed that an armed attack in the North Atlantic area against one or more of them would be regarded as an attack against them all. Each one undertook to assist the attacked by taking such action as it deemed necessary, including the use of armed force. The parties, furthermore, pledged to maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack.

July 7: **France proposes creation of an agency free of the veto to plan a world-wide census of non-atomic weapons and armed forces.**

July 29: **U. N. Atomic Energy Commission decides to suspend its work indefinitely.**

After two dozen formal sessions and hundreds of committee meetings, the Commission voted 9 to 2, with the U. S. S. R. and the Soviet Ukraine opposing, to call off its negotiations on the international control of atomic energy "until such time as the sponsoring powers have reported that there exists a basis for agreement."

Sept. 23: **President Truman announces that the United States Government has evidence that an atomic explosion has taken place in the U. S. S. R.**

Oct. 11: **Soviet Union vetoes proposal for a verified census of the world's non-atomic armaments and armed forces.**

Nov. 23: **U. N. General Assembly votes 49 to 5 (the Soviet bloc opposed) in support of the majority plan for atomic control, largely based on United States proposals.**

Dec. 1: **U. N. General Assembly adopts "Essentials of Peace" resolution in which members pledge to settle international disputes by peaceful means and to seek international control of armaments.**

1949

Dec. 5: **U. N. General Assembly (the Soviet bloc opposed) asks the Security Council to continue study of means to regulate the world's armed forces and conventional armaments.**

Dec. 15: **U. N. General Assembly approves the proposals formulated by the Commission for Conventional Armaments.**

1950

Jan. 19: **Soviet representative withdraws from the U. N. Atomic Energy Commission.**

A Soviet move to have the Chinese Nationalist representative unseated having failed, the U. S. S. R. announced that it would withdraw, stating that it would not recognize as lawful any recommendation adopted by that body as long as Nationalist China continued to participate. The withdrawal was one of many from U. N. organs which the Soviet Union made at that time. Subsequently participation was resumed.

Mar. 19: **Communist-sponsored World Congress of Partisans of Peace, convening in Stockholm, Sweden, adopts the "Stockholm Resolution."**

The resolution embodied three demands: prohibition of atomic weapons; "strict international control" of the atom bomb; and condemnation as a war criminal of the first government to use atomic weapons.

May 25: **France, the United Kingdom, and the United States announce Tripartite Declaration regarding security in the Near East.**

The three powers declared their opposition to an arms race between the Arab States and Israel. The powers stated all applications for arms from these countries would be regarded in the light of the defense needs of the area as a whole and the necessity for self-defense purposes.

June 25: **Korean conflict begins with an invasion of Communist forces from North Korea across the 38th parallel.**

The action brought passage within 7 hours, by the U. N. Security Council (the U. S. S. R. absent), of a resolution which paved the way for armed assistance to the Republic of Korea by United States forces together with 15 others of the United Nations.

Oct. 23: **Soviet representative introduces in the U. N. General Assembly a proposal for "the strengthening of peace."**

Under the proposal the General Assembly was asked to condemn war propaganda and prohibit atomic weapons, with the provision that the first power to use them would be treated as a war criminal. The proposal also sought a peace pact among the five Great Powers and, as a first step toward disarmament, reduction of their armed forces by one-third within one year. It was rejected by the General Assembly on October 30.

1950

Oct. 24: **President Truman suggests a new approach to the task of disarmament by merging the work of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Commission for Conventional Armaments.**

He outlined as basic principles upon which any successful plan for disarmament must rest the following points:

"The plan must include all kinds of weapons * * *; the plan must be based on unanimous agreement; * * * disarmament must be based on safeguards which will insure the compliance of all nations. The safeguards must be adequate to give immediate warning of any threatened violation; disarmament must be policed continuously and thoroughly; it must be founded upon free and open interchange of information across national borders."

Nov. 3: **U. N. General Assembly adopts "Uniting for Peace" Resolution.**

The resolution established a 14-member Peace Observation Committee and a 14-member Collective Measures Committee for strengthening international peace in accordance with the charter. It specifically recommended earmarking national units which could be made available under United Nations resolutions for maintaining peace.

Nov. 17: **U. N. General Assembly adopts "Peace Through Deeds" Resolution.**

The Assembly held that the goals of international control of aggression, regulation of armaments and elimination of weapons of mass destruction under the United Nations and the diversion of resources from armaments to developments for the general welfare could be achieved if member nations would demonstrate their will to achieve peace through deeds.

1951

Mar. 14: **President Truman endorses proposals for progressive disarmament advanced by Senator Ralph E. Flanders and supported by 23 Members of the United States Congress.**

In a letter to the President, the Members of Congress urged that the United States make proposals for the establishment of a U. N. Commission for progressive disarmament, for the establishment of a U. N. police force, for complete disarmament under U. N. supervision, and for leaving this disarmament offer permanently open until world acceptance. In endorsing the proposals, the President said, however, that the United States must build up strength in case a war should be forced upon us, since the U. S. S. R. was building up its armaments.

May 15: **Concurrent Resolution of the United States Congress urges that the U. N. General Assembly take action to put an embargo on arms and other strategic material to Communist China.**

1951

May 18: **U. N. General Assembly adopts resolution calling for an embargo by U. N. members against shipments of strategic materials to Communist China and North Korea.**

Sept. 1: **Australia, New Zealand, and the United States sign a Security Treaty at San Francisco.**

Sept. 8: **United States and Japan sign a security treaty in which the avoidance of "armament which could be an offensive threat" is mentioned at the same time that provision is made for defensive forces.**

Oct. 26: **Mutual Defense Assistance Control Act is adopted by the United States.**

The act provided for an embargo on the shipment of arms and other strategic materials to any nation threatening the security of the United States. It declared the policy of the United States to be to withhold military, economic, or financial assistance from nations which did not apply a similar embargo, except when the President determined the cessation of aid would be detrimental to the security of the United States. It also called for support of efforts of the United Nations to prevent the shipment of certain commodities to countries engaged in hostilities against the United Nations (Battle Act).

Dec. 21: **After an exchange of notes with the United States, France, Great Britain, and other western signatories, Italy declares revision of the Treaty of Peace of 1947 is complete and the restrictive military clauses no longer apply.**

1952

Jan. 11: **U. N. General Assembly votes to establish a single Disarmament Commission to replace the Atomic Energy Commission and the Commission for Conventional Armaments.**

The new Commission was to be composed of the members of the Security Council plus Canada. It was directed to prepare draft proposals to be embodied in a treaty or treaties for submission to a conference of all states. On February 4, the new Commission convened for the first time.

Jan. 19: **U. N. General Assembly transmits to the Disarmament Commission revised proposals of the U. S. S. R. on atomic and conventional armaments.**

The proposals included prohibition of nuclear weapons and the establishment of international control over enforcement, with instructions to the Disarmament Commission to prepare, not later than June 1, 1952, a draft convention providing implementing measures.

1952

Apr. 2: **General Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, makes first report to the NATO countries.**

He declared: "Visible and within grasp we have the capability of building such military, economic, and moral strength as the Communist world would never dare to challenge. When that point is reached, the Iron Curtain rulers may finally be willing to participate seriously in disarmament negotiations. Then we may see fulfilled the universal hope expressed in the United Nations Charter to reduce 'the diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources.' "

Apr. 4: **Two committees are set up by the U. N. Disarmament Commission.**

Committee I was to deal with the regulation of all armaments and armed forces; Committee II was to deal with disclosures and verification of all armaments, including atomic armaments, and of all armed forces.

Apr. 5: **United States introduces "Proposals for Progressive and Continuous Disclosure and Verification of Armed Forces and Armaments."**

The proposals were introduced as a working paper in the Disarmament Commission. They dealt with the problem of advance warning against violations and methods for verification, including aerial surveys and ground inspectors. The Soviet representative on the Commission objected to the proposed system of inspection and to the phasing on atomic disclosures.

Apr. 8: **Soviet Union modifies proposals on world disarmament.**

The Soviet delegate proposed that the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction and the establishment of control should come into effect simultaneously. He suggested that "continuous inspection" be undertaken by an international control organ but "without interference in domestic affairs of states."

Apr. 24: **United States introduces in the Disarmament Commission the "Essential Principles of a Disarmament Program."**

The United States held that in a disarmed world, states must refrain from the use of force or the threat of force as an instrument of national or ideological policy. Armed forces and armaments should be reduced to such a point that no state would be in a position to start a war or to undertake the preparations for war without the long previous knowledge of other states, or be in a position to commit any act of physical aggression against any other state. International agreements should bind all states to such terms as would further progress toward the disarmament goals, i. e., an effective international system of disclosure and verification of all armed forces and armaments including atomic and international control.

1952

May 28: **France, the United Kingdom, and the United States submit a working paper containing a formula for numerical limitation of all armed forces.**

The working formula, suggested as a basis of discussion, provided for a maximum of between one and one and a half million men each for the total strength of the armed forces of the United States, the U. S. S. R., and China, and between 700,000 and 800,000 each for Great Britain and France. All other states would have agreed maxima, normally less than one percent of each country's population. The plan also specified various safeguards and was supplemented with proposals aimed to prevent undue concentration of permitted forces. The Soviet Union rejected the proposals on August 12, 1952.

Aug. 12: **United States, United Kingdom, and France suggest holding a five-power disarmament conference.**

The purpose of the suggested conference was to negotiate on the distribution of armed forces, types and quantities of armament, elimination of major weapons adaptable to mass destruction, and effective international control of atomic energy.

On August 29 Soviet Representative Malik rejected the western proposal for a five-power conference.

Nov. 1: **United States tests first hydrogen bomb at Eniwetok.**

1953

Apr. 16: **President Eisenhower announces that "* * * this Government is ready to ask its people to join with all nations in devoting a substantial percentage of any savings achieved by real disarmament to a fund for world aid and reconstruction * * *."**

July 27: **Korean truce talks, which began on July 10, 1951, result in an armistice.**

July 29: **United States Senate Resolution 150 on world disarmament passes unanimously.**

The resolution stated "that it continues to be the declared purpose of the United States to obtain within the United Nations, agreements by all nations for enforceable world disarmament." It further called for a plan for the transfer of resources and manpower now being used for arms to constructive ends at home and abroad.

Aug. 20: **Soviet Government announces that it has tested a hydrogen bomb "within the last few days."**

1953

Dec. 8: **President Eisenhower, in a speech before the U. N. General Assembly, proposes an "Atoms for Peace" plan for the international development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy.**

The President suggested, "The governments principally involved, to the extent permitted by elementary prudence, to begin now and continue to make joint contributions from their stockpiles of normal uranium and fissionable materials to an International Atomic Energy Agency" set up under the aegis of the United Nations. Under the plan experts would be mobilized to apply atomic energy to the needs of agriculture, medicine, and other peaceful activities, including the provision of abundant electrical energy in the power-starved areas of the world. Thus the contributing countries would be "dedicating some of their strength to serve the needs rather than the fears of mankind."

1954

Apr. 5: **Prime Minister Churchill makes public the provisions of the Churchill-Roosevelt atomic agreement of August 19, 1943, signed at Quebec.**

The agreement, which had not previously been revealed, pledged the two nations never to use the atomic bomb against each other or against third parties without the other's consent or to communicate any [A-bomb] information to third parties except by mutual consent. The British Government recognized "that any postwar advantages of an industrial or commercial character should be dealt with * * * on terms to be specified by the President of the United States to the Prime Minister of Great Britain." Finally a combined United States-British-Canadian "policy" committee was to agree on each country's work programs, allocate scarce materials, and settle disputes, with complete interchange of information.

Apr. 19: **U. N. Disarmament Commission rejects 9 to 1 (Lebanon and China abstaining) Soviet demands to include Communist China, India, and Czechoslovakia in the new series of atomic control talks.**

Apr. 26: **Premier Malenkov, in a speech to the Supreme Soviet in Moscow, states that the Soviet Union is ready for atomic war and that if it should come the final advantage would be on the Soviet side.**

May 2: **Prime Ministers of Burma, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, and Pakistan, at Colombo, join in a communique voicing support of the efforts of the U. N. Disarmament Commission to bring about the elimination and prohibition of hydrogen bombs and other weapons of mass destruction.**

1954

May 9: **Soviet Union states that it will not take part in the international atomic energy pool proposed by President Eisenhower unless there is a prior agreement to prohibit atomic weapons.**

May 13: **U. N. Disarmament Commission Subcommittee, consisting of Canada, France, the U. S. S. R., the United Kingdom, and the United States, meets in London until June 22.**

May 21: **French Delegate declares before the U. N. Disarmament Subcommittee: "I am convinced * * * that in the present state of development of atomic science the Baruch Plan as formulated in 1946 is today obsolete and would be ineffective * * *."**

May 25: **Secretary of State Dulles states that the sending of arms to Guatemala by international Communists endangers the peace of the Americas.**

June 1: **Soviet Union proposes that states "assume a solemn and unconditional obligation not to employ stomic, hydrogen, or other weapons of mass destruction."**

June 11: **France and the United Kingdom, with the support of the United States and Canada, propose a disarmament program which would prohibit the use of nuclear weapons except in defense against aggression, and would freeze all military expenditures and manpower at the December 1953 levels.**

A treaty was envisaged which would eventually provide for the prohibition of the manufacture and use of nuclear weapons, for the diversion of existing military stocks, and for the establishment of a control organ to supervise observance of the treaty. A detailed plan for the timing of the introduction of these reductions, prohibitions, and controls was presented.

The Soviet Union rejected the proposed French-British-sponsored program and submitted new proposals. These added to the previous Soviet position suggestions for an international control organ to "carry out" inspection on a continuing basis without the right to interfere in the domestic affairs of states. The Disarmament Subcommittee rejected the Soviet proposals.

June 22: **Members of the U. N. Disarmament Subcommittee conclude their meetings in London and begin drafting a report to the Commission on their failure to break the 8-year deadlock.**

June 29: **President Eisenhower and Prime Minister Churchill, in Washington, issue a joint declaration calling for reductions in armaments under effective safeguards and the use of nuclear power to enrich and not destroy mankind (the "Potomac Declaration").**

1954

July 21: **Indochina Truce is signed at Geneva.**

July 29: **U. N. Disarmament Commission unanimously agrees to submit for consideration India's proposal for an interim "standstill agreement" on nuclear explosions and full publicity of the extent of destructive power and known effects of these weapons.**

Disarmament Commission adjourns without reaching agreement.

Aug. 26: **Mutual Security Act of 1954 gives the President authority to control the traffic in arms and other strategic materials, including technical data relating thereto.**

Aug. 30: **President signs the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, revising the Act of 1946.**

The revision authorized the exchange with allies of tactical information essential to the development of defense plans and the exchange of data and material for the peaceful use of atomic energy.

Pursuant to this act there have been signed to date (March 15, 1956) agreements between the United States and 28 countries covering the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The following countries have signed agreements: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Denmark, West Germany (agreement not yet in force), Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Sept. 8: **Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty is signed at Manila by Australia, France, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.**

Sept. 30: **U. S. S. R. presents a new draft resolution on disarmament to the U. N. General Assembly based on the British-French proposals in London of June 11, 1954.**

Statements by United States, British, and French representatives at the time expressed the hope that the Soviet Union was yielding on points it had maintained throughout eight years.

Oct. 22: **The Soviet Union joins the Western Nations in sponsoring a resolution in the Subcommittee of the U. N. Disarmament Commission calling for a new attempt to achieve disarmament and the prohibition of nuclear weapons.**

1954

Oct. 23: **Protocols of the Western European Union Charter are signed, including provision for the control of armaments.**

The protocols were signed by Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany), Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. They made provision for a control agency to be established for the furnishing of information concerning the extent of armaments for each participating country, for the control of specific armaments (including atomic, biological, and chemical), various types of military weapons, missiles, warships, aircraft, and so forth, and the limitation of armed forces, as well as the contribution of them to the protection of the Western European Union.

Paris Protocol on the Termination of the Occupation in the Federal Republic of Germany is signed.

The protocol provided for the temporary retention of certain rights by the United States, the United Kingdom, and France relating to disarmament and demilitarization. A Joint Four-Power Commission was to retain the existing powers in these matters until the entry into force of the arrangements for the German defense contribution and the establishment of an agency for the control of armaments.

Nov. 4: **U. N. General Assembly calls for a new attempt to reach an East-West agreement on disarmament and the prohibition of nuclear weapons.**

By a unanimous resolution the Assembly adopted recommendations on further efforts to seek an acceptable solution of the disarmament problem by means of an international convention embodying the various proposals for reduction, prohibition, inspection, and international control.

1955

Feb. 25: **Five-Nation Disarmament Subcommittee (United States, Britain, Canada, France, and the Soviet Union) resumes meetings until May 18.**

Mar. 1: **Prime Minister Winston Churchill opens a House of Commons debate on thermonuclear weapons with approval of the policy of deterring war by maintaining armed strength, unless there can be trustworthy and universal agreement on disarmanent.**

He said that "the best defense would, of course be bona fide disarmament all around." We may now have reached, he said, "a stage * * * where safety will be the sturdy child of terror and survival the twin brother of annihilation."

1955

Mar. 8: **Canada, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States present a joint resolution in the Subcommittee of the U. N. Disarmament Commission calling for a treaty to prohibit use of atomic weapons except in defense against aggression.**

The resolution recommended that the treaty provide that "* * * all states possessing nuclear weapons should regard themselves as prohibited in accordance with the terms of the charter of the United Nations from the use of such weapons except in defense against aggression" pending the total prohibition of such weapons; further, that it provide (*a*) for total prohibition of nuclear weapons; (*b*) for a major reduction in armed forces and armaments, and (*c*) for the establishment of a control organ to guarantee observance of the above.

Mar. 18: **Soviet Union presents, in the U. N. Disarmament Commission Subcommittee, a plan for disarmament containing a provision prohibiting increase in armed forces or military appropriations beyond the level of January 1, 1955.**

In some respects the plan resembled one advanced jointly in the summer of 1954 by Britain and France. Its effect, however, would have been to prohibit the German Federal Republic from raising the 12 divisions projected as its contribution within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the defense of Western Europe.

Mar. 19: **President Eisenhower creates a post of Special Assistant on Disarmament.**

The White House announcement stated that Harold E. Stassen, the Special Assistant, was to "take into account the full implications of new weapons now in the possession of other nations, as well as the United States, to consider future probabilities of armaments, and to weigh the views of the military, the civilians, and the officials of our Govcrnment and of other Governments."

Apr. 13: **North Atlantic Treaty Organization Council issues text of draft agreement of March 2, 1955, for cooperation concerning atomic information among NATO members.**

Apr. 19: **France and the United Kingdom submit new proposals to the U. N. Disarmament Commission Subcommittee.**

They recommended that a draft disarmament treaty should include complete prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons to start after 75 percent of reductions in conventional forces had been achieved.

1955

Apr. 24: **At Bandung Conference the final communique of Asian and African countries asserts that "* * * the problem of peace is correlative with the problem of international security."**

The communique urged all states to cooperate "especially through the United Nations in bringing about the reduction of armaments and the elimination of nuclear weapons under effective international control * * *."

May 10: **Soviet Union modifies disarmament proposals in the United Nations Disarmament Commission's Subcommittee.**

One new Soviet proposal called for an international control agency with inspectors chosen on an international basis, inspectors to establish "control posts in big ports, railway junctions, motor roads and airdromes." The Soviet Union also called for the dismantling of all foreign bases, a ban on nuclear weapons testing, and acceptance of the levels of a reduction of arms proposed by Western Powers.

May 14: **Eight Communist nations sign the Warsaw Pact, formalizing military ties in Eastern Europe.**

June 1: **Subcommittee of the U. N. Disarmament Commission meets in New York and decides to suspend disarmament talks pending forthcoming Big Four Meetings "at the Summit" in July.**

July 18: **President Eisenhower, Prime Minister Eden, Premier Bulganin, and Prime Minister Faure meet at Geneva.**

Premier Edgar Faure of France proposes that financial resources made available in the event of disarmament should be allocated to international expenditure for development and mutual assistance.

British Prime Minister Eden at Geneva suggests tentative plan for European security as a preliminary step to larger plan within the United Nations.

His proposal was for (1) a mutual security pact within the United Nations among France, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Soviet Union, plus a united Germany; (2) agreement on the armaments of Germany and neighboring countries under reciprocal supervision of all the countries involved; and (3) a demilitarized area between East and West.

1955

President Eisenhower presents a proposal calling for an exchange of blueprints of military information between the United States and the U. S. S. R., to be verified by mutual aerial reconnaissance as a "beginning" for a comprehensive and effective system of inspection and disarmament.

In making this proposal the President said: "We have not as yet been able to discover any scientific or other inspection method which would make certain of the elimination of the nuclear weapons."

July 21: **Soviet Premier Bulganin offers abbreviated version of the Soviet disarmament proposals submitted to the United Nations Disarmament Commission's Five-Nation Subcommittee in London on May 10, 1955.**

United States, United Kingdom, France, and the U. S. S. R., at "Summit Conference," recommend that the U. N. Disarmament Commission Subcommittee resume meetings in New York August 29.

July 25: **United States Senate approves Senate Resolution 93 (84th Cong., 1st session) calling for the creation of a Subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee to "study proposals (for) disarmament and the control of weapons of mass destruction."**

The subcommittee was to be composed of 12 members, equally divided between the parties, consisting of 6 members of the Committee on Foreign Relations, 4 members of the Committee on Armed Services, and 2 members of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

July 28: **Senate passes resolution (S. Res. 71, 84th Cong.) requesting the President to "present to the United Nations a proposal to explore the possibilities of limiting the proportion of every nation's resources devoted to military purposes" so as to increase the proportion devoted to raising living standards.**

Aug. 29: **United States gives details of President Eisenhower's inspection plan at resumption of meetings of the Disarmament Commission's Subcommittee.**

Sept. 1: **In the U. N. Disarmament Commission, Soviet delegate calls on the West to accept the "major point" of the Soviet disarmament plan and thus to improve the atmosphere for consideration of "other questions."**

The principal Soviet proposals were: armed forces of United States, Soviet Union, and Communist China to be cut to 1 to 1½ million men, with lower levels for other countries; a ban on the use of nuclear weapons when these cuts had been 75 percent completed; a total ban on and the destruction of atom bombs when the remaining 25 per cent had been cut; a Western promise to use atomic weapons in the interim only in cases defined as aggression by the U. N. Security Council; an immediate end to atomic tests.

1955

Sept. 13: **British plan to test a joint reporting and inspection system in selected areas of Europe is presented to U. N. Disarmament Commission Subcommittee.**

Sept. 19: **Soviet Premier Bulganin in a letter to President Eisenhower states that "in principle we have no objections" to the Eisenhower plan for an exchange of military blueprints and mutual inspection of arms installations.**

He added, however, that "to avoid misunderstandings, it is self-evident that information on all kinds of armaments, conventional as well as nuclear, must be submitted," and that exchange and inspection "would become significant only if agreement is achieved on the reduction of armaments and on taking measures for the prohibition of atomic weapons."

Sept. 23: **Molotov tells the U. N. General Assembly that the U. S. S. R. is still studying the Eisenhower plan, which "was an expression of a sincere desire" to make progress toward disarmament.**

Oct. 7: **U. N. Disarmament Commission's Subcommittee recesses in view of the approaching meeting of the "Big Four" Prime Ministers in Geneva.**

At the final meeting of the Subcommittee the Soviet delegate repeated the Soviet view that President Eisenhower's inspection plan would not be acceptable except as a part of a general disarmament program. The United States representative expressed satisfaction over "a real improvement in the climate of discussion and the exchange of views on facts as they exist in the world." The Subcommittee unanimously approved its report and submitted it to the Disarmament Commission.

Oct. 11: **In reply to Bulganin's letter of September 19, President Eisenhower offers to accept the U. S. S. R. plan for ground-inspection teams at key military concentration points in the United States and U. S. S. R., if U. S. S. R. accepts his plan for exchanging military blueprints and aerial reconnaissance rights.**

Oct. 27: **Foreign Ministers of the United States, United Kingdom, France, and the U. S. S. R. convene at Geneva.**

The directive of the heads of government in July had instructed them to consider, among other things, the control and inspection of arms. The Ministers debated Western proposals for German unification coupled with a security guaranty for Eastern Europe and Mr. Molotov's proposal for an all Europe security pact. Mr. Molotov's proposal was criticized as failing to carry out the directive of the heads of government at the Geneva meeting in July. The talks ended on November 16 without any agreement.

1955

Nov. 23: **U. N. Disarmament Commission meets and transmits to the General Assembly and the Security Council the report of its Subcommittee.**

The report presented the positions of the "Powers principally involved," which had been advanced during the year as well as proposals submitted to the "Summit meetings" of July in Geneva.

The French delegate suggests that the disarmament plans already put forward by France, the United Kingdom, and the United States on the one hand, and the U. S. S. R. on the other, be combined.

The French delegate to the U. N. Disarmament Commission set forth the following principles: no control without disarmament; no disarmament without control; but progressively all disarmament that can be controlled; atomic stockpiles should be renounced and tests be made for peaceful purposes only; scientific conferences should be held periodically, "to pinpoint the search for methods of detecting the stocks with a view to destroying them as soon as the method has been discovered."

Dec. 3: **U. N. General Assembly adopts unanimously a resolution to establish an International Committee on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy.**

U. N. General Assembly unanimously votes to establish a 15-member scientific committee to collect, evaluate, and disseminate information on the effects of atomic radiation.

Dec. 14: **In India, officials of the U. S. S. R. announce that their country will continue to make atomic and hydrogen bombs.**

Dec. 16: **U. N. General Assembly approves resolution on disarmament which gave priority to President Eisenhower's plan for exchanging military blueprints and mutual aerial inspection, plus the Soviet plan for ground control posts, and also to "all such measures of adequately safeguarded disarmament as are now feasible."**

Dec. 24: **Pope Pius XII, in his annual Christmas message, gives his support to proposals for international disarmament.**

The Pope's three-point program—assuming that adequate safeguards could be achieved—called for: (1) renunciation of experimentation with nuclear weapons; (2) abandonment of the use of nuclear weapons; and (3) control of armaments in general.

1956

Jan. 23: **U. N. Disarmament Commission agrees that its Subcommittee should resume work in the near future.**

In letter to President Eisenhower, Premier Bulganin proposes a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States.

On January 26 President Eisenhower replied that this "might indeed work against the cause of peace by creating the illusion that a stroke of a pen had achieved a result which in fact can be obtained only by a change of spirit."

Jan. 28: **Representatives of the Warsaw Treaty Powers (see May 14, 1955), meeting in Prague, issue statement on the armament race.**

They voiced confidence in securing peace by replacing military alinements with collective security arrangements and proposed a ban on nuclear weapons for forces of all parties on German territory (both East and West Germany).

Feb. 1: **"Declaration of Washington" issued jointly by President Eisenhower and Prime Minister Eden reaffirms objective of universal and effectively controlled disarmament.**

Mar. 6: **United States makes public President Eisenhower's letter of March 1 to Premier Bulganin of the U. S. S. R.**

It read in part:

"In my judgment, our efforts must be directed especially to bringing under control the nuclear threat. As an important step for this purpose, and assuming the satisfactory operation of our air and ground inspection system, the United States would be prepared to work out with other nations suitable and safeguarded arrangements so that future production of fissionable materials anywhere in the world would no longer be used to increase the stockpiles of explosive weapons."

Mar. 19: **Subcommittee of U. N. Disarmament Commission resumes work in London.**

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