

Affirming the need for strengthening further the system of collective security under the authority of the United Nations,

Finding that to this end further steps could be taken by States and by the United Nations in accordance with the Charter and in conformity with the "Uniting for peace" resolution (377 A (V)) and with resolution 503 (VI),

1. *Takes note* of the second report of the Collective Measures Committee and expresses appreciation of the constructive work done by the Committee during the past year, particularly in the economic field, including the preparation of lists of arms, ammunition and implements of war and of strategic items for consideration by the Security Council or the General Assembly in the application of a selective embargo;

2. *Requests* the Collective Measures Committee to continue its work until the ninth session of the General Assembly, as directed in paragraph 4 below, for the maintenance and strengthening of the United Nations collective security system;

3. *Recommends* to States Members, and invites States not Members of the United Nations:

(a) To give careful consideration to the reports of the Collective Measures Committee;

(b) To continue and intensify their efforts to carry out the recommendations of the "Uniting for peace" resolution and of resolution 503 (VI);

(c) To keep the Collective Measures Committee currently informed of the progress they are making in this respect;

4. *Directs* the Collective Measures Committee:

(a) To pursue such studies as it may deem desirable to strengthen the capability of the United Nations to maintain peace, taking account of the "Uniting for peace" resolution, resolution 503 (VI) and the present resolution;

(b) To continue the examination of information received from States pursuant to the "Uniting for peace" resolution, resolution 503 (VI) and the present resolution;

(c) In the light of its studies, to suggest to the Security Council and to the General Assembly such specific ways and means as it may deem appropriate to encourage further preparatory action by States;

(d) To report to the Security Council and to the General Assembly not later than the ninth session of the Assembly.

*415th plenary meeting,
17 March 1953.*

704 (VII). Regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments: report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that:

Under the Charter of the United Nations all States are bound to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered, and to

refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations,

The aim of a system of world-wide disarmament is to prevent war and release the world's human and economic resources for the purposes of peace,

1. *Takes note* of the report⁴ of the Disarmament Commission;

2. *Reaffirms* General Assembly resolution 502 (VI) of 11 January 1952 and requests the Disarmament Commission to continue its work for the development by the United Nations of comprehensive and co-ordinated plans providing for:

(a) The regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and armaments;

(b) The elimination and prohibition of all major weapons, including bacteriological, adaptable to mass destruction;

(c) The effective international control of atomic energy to ensure the prohibition of atomic weapons and the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes only; The whole programme to be carried out under effective international control in such a way that no State would have cause to fear that its security was endangered;

3. *Requests* the Commission to report to the General Assembly and to the Security Council no later than 1 September 1953, and hopes that all the members of the Commission will co-operate in efforts to produce constructive proposals likely to facilitate its task.

*424th plenary meeting,
8 April 1953.*

705 (VII). The Korean question

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its unswerving determination to spare no efforts likely to create conditions favourable to the attainment of the purposes of peace and conciliation embodied in the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting, following the United Nations Command initiative for the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war, the communication⁵ by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China dated 31 March 1953 to the President of the General Assembly, and the exchange of communications⁶ between the United Nations Command and the Commanders of the Chinese People's Volunteers and the Korean People's Army in regard thereto,

Confident that a just and honourable armistice in Korea will powerfully contribute to alleviate the present international tension,

1. *Notes with deep satisfaction* that an agreement has been signed in Korea on the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war;

⁴ See *Official Records of the Disarmament Commission, 1952, Special Supplement No. 1.*

⁵ See document A/2378.

⁶ See document A/2390.

2. *Expresses the hope* that the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war will be speedily completed and that the further negotiations at Panmunjom will result in achieving an early armistice in Korea, consistent with the United Nations principles and objectives;

3. *Decides* to recess the present session upon completion of the current agenda items, and requests the President of the General Assembly to reconvene the present session to resume consideration of the Korean question (a) upon notification by the Unified Command to the Security Council of the signing of an armistice agreement in Korea; or (b) when, in the view of a majority of Members, other developments in Korea require consideration of this question.

*427th plenary meeting,
18 April 1953.*

706 (VII). Question of impartial investigation of charges of use by United Nations Forces of bacteriological warfare

The General Assembly,

Noting that accusations have been made by certain governments and authorities charging the use of bacteriological warfare by United Nations Forces, and that the Unified Command has repeatedly denied such charges,

Recalling that when the charges were first made the Unified Command had requested that an impartial investigation be made of them,

Noting that the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China and the North Korean authorities have so far refused to accept an offer by the International Committee of the Red Cross to carry out an investigation,

Noting that the draft resolution⁷ submitted in the Security Council by the Government of the United States of America proposing an investigation of these charges by the International Committee of the Red Cross failed to carry because of the negative vote of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

Desiring to serve the interests of truth,

1. *Resolves* that, after the President of the General Assembly has received an indication from all the governments and authorities concerned of their acceptance of the investigation proposed in the present resolution, a Commission, composed of Brazil, Egypt, Pakistan, Sweden and Uruguay, shall be set up and shall carry out immediately an investigation of the charges that have been made;

2. *Calls upon* the governments and authorities concerned to enable the Commission to travel freely throughout such areas of North and South Korea, the Chinese mainland and Japan as the Commission may deem necessary in the performance of its task and to allow the Commission freedom of access to such persons, places and relevant documents as it considers necessary for the fulfilment of its task and to allow it to examine any witness, including prisoners of war, under such safeguards and conditions as the Commis-

⁷ See document S/2671.

sion shall determine: all prisoners of war who are alleged to have made confessions regarding the use of bacteriological warfare shall, prior to examination by the Commission, be taken to a neutral area and remain under the responsibility and custody of the Commission until the end of the Korean hostilities;

3. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to transmit the present resolution immediately to the governments and authorities concerned, requesting them to indicate their acceptance of the investigation proposed in the present resolution;

4. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to report to the General Assembly at the earliest practicable date on the results of his efforts;

5. *Directs* the Commission, when set up, to enlist the aid of such scientists of international reputation, especially epidemiologists, and such other experts as it may select;

6. *Directs* the Commission, after acceptance of the investigation proposed in the present resolution by all the governments and authorities concerned, to report to the Members of the General Assembly through the Secretary-General as soon possible and no later than 1 September 1953;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to furnish the Commission with the necessary staff and facilities.

*428th plenary meeting,
23 April 1953.*

707 (VII). Complaint by the Union of Burma regarding aggression against it by the Government of the Republic of China

The General Assembly,

Having examined the complaint⁸ by the delegation of the Union of Burma regarding the presence, hostile activities and depredations of foreign forces in the territory of the Union of Burma,

Considering that these facts constitute a violation of the territory and sovereignty of the Union of Burma,

Affirming that any assistance given to these forces which enables them to remain in the territory of the Union of Burma or to continue their hostile acts against a Member State is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations,

Considering that the refusal of these forces to submit to disarmament or internment is contrary to international law and usage,

1. *Deplores* this situation and condemns the presence of these forces in Burma and their hostile acts against that country;

2. *Declares* that these foreign forces must be disarmed and either agree to internment or leave the territory of the Union of Burma forthwith;

3. *Requests* all States to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of the Union of Burma in accordance with the principles of the Charter;

4. *Recommends* that the negotiations now in progress through the good offices of certain Member States

⁸ See document A/2375.