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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL  
ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE SIXTH REGULAR SESSION

Item proposed by France, by the United Kingdom and by the  
United States of America

Note by the Secretary-General: The Secretary-General has the honour to communicate to the Members of the General Assembly the text of a letter dated 8 November 1951 which he has received from His Excellency the Honorable Mr. Dean Acheson, Secretary of State, United States of America. Identical letters have also been received from His Excellency Mr. Jean Chauvel, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations and from His Excellency the Right Honourable Anthony Eden, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom.

Paris, 8 November 1951

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Government of the United States, in agreement with the French and United Kingdom Governments, requests that the following item be included in the agenda of the sixth regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, as an additional item of important and urgent character under rule 15 of the rules of procedure:

"Regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments".

In accordance with rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure, an explanatory memorandum on this item is attached.

(Signed) Dean ACHESON  
Chairman of the Delegation of  
the United States of America.

/EXPLANATORY  
A/1943

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Under the provisions of Article 11 of the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly is authorized to consider the general principles of co-operation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments. The Assembly may make recommendations with regard to such principles to the Members of the United Nations, to the Security Council, or both. On the initiative of the General Assembly, both the Atomic Energy Commission and the Commission for Conventional Armaments have been established. Each year since the founding of the United Nations, the General Assembly, directly or through its commissions, has sought to deal with the problems of the regulation of armaments, in order to carry out responsibilities under the Charter.

In 1946, the General Assembly established the Atomic Energy Commission. In 1947, the Commission for Conventional Armaments was established in response to the Assembly's recommendations. Each year beginning with 1948, the General Assembly has approved by very considerable majorities the United Nations plan for international control of atomic energy.

On 4 November, 1948 and again on 23 November, 1949, the Assembly declared its wish that the six permanent members of the Atomic Energy Commission should endeavour to find a basis for agreement on the international control of atomic energy.

In 1949, forty-four Members of the General Assembly supported the proposals for an international census and verification introduced by France in the Commission for Conventional Armaments.

In December 1950, the General Assembly established the Committee of Twelve to consider and report on ways and means whereby the work of the Atomic Energy and Conventional Armaments Commissions might be co-ordinated, and on the advisability of merging their functions. This Committee, on 29 August, 1951, adopted a resolution proposed by the United States recommending to the Assembly that the functions of the two existing Commissions be merged and that a new and unified commission should carry forward their work. Consideration of that recommendation is an item on the agenda of this Assembly.

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Since 1946, the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and France, for their part, have earnestly sought means by which to bring about effective regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and armaments, including international control of atomic energy, which would ensure the prohibition of atomic weapons and the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes only.

On 7 November 1951, the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and France issued a statement (a copy of which is attached hereto) declaring their intention to submit to this Assembly, for its consideration, proposals for proceeding with the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and of all armaments, including atomic weapons.

The United States, jointly with the United Kingdom and France, believes that the General Assembly through consideration of this question can make an important contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security.

ANNEX  
TRIPARTITE STATEMENT

(1) France, the United Kingdom and the United States will submit to the sixth General Assembly of the United Nations for its consideration proposals for proceeding with the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments, including atomic.

(2) As long as present conditions of international tension prevail, the three Governments have the inescapable duty and are unshakably determined to continue their efforts to develop the strength required for their security and that of the free world, because without security there can be no peace with justice. They also believe that if all governments sincerely join in the co-operative and effective regulation and limitation of armed forces and armaments, this would greatly reduce the danger of war and thus enhance the security of all nations.

(3) In any honest programme for regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and armaments a first and indispensable step is disclosure and verification. The system of disclosure and verification must be on a continuing basis and reveal in successive stages all armed forces -- including para-military, security and police forces -- and all armaments, including atomic. It must also provide for effective international inspection to verify the adequacy and accuracy of this information.

(4) Such a system of disclosure and verification in successive stages would be an essential part of the programme for regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and armaments to a level which would decrease substantially the possibility of a successful aggression and thereby decrease the chance that armed aggression would be used to further national objectives.

(5) The three Governments believe that a workable programme should include criteria according to which the size of all armed forces would be limited, the portion of national production which could be used for military purposes would be restricted, and mutually agreed national military programmes would be arrived at within the prescribed limits and restrictions. The United Nations plan for the international control of atomic energy and the prohibition of atomic weapons

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should continue to serve as the basis for the atomic energy aspects of any general programme for the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armaments and armed forces, unless and until a better and more effective plan can be devised.

(6) The three Governments believe that discussion of the programme should begin now. However, such a general programme cannot be put into effect while United Nations forces are resisting aggression in Korea. Moreover, concurrently with the coming into effect of the programme, the major political issues which have divided the world can and must be settled.

(7) The three Governments share with all Members of the United Nations the responsibility to promote world conditions in which international peace and security are assured. They believe that their proposals offer an opportunity for the world to move forward toward that objective.

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