

the major powers in developing their proposals for a total disarmament programme. The constructive contributions of the eight non-aligned countries greatly facilitated these achievements.

Even though final accords may be reached outside the confines of the Eighteen-Nation Committee, as in the case of the partial test-ban treaty and the agreement on orbiting weapons, that is no reflection on the work or worth of the Committee, for it is the end result which counts, not the forum in which that result is reached, and it is only to be expected that in nuclear matters it is the nuclear powers who must finally agree.

The Eighteen-Nation Committee will be reconvening in circumstances which can make its work fruitful far beyond the general expectation of only some months ago. All of us at this session of the United Nations have been struck by the atmosphere of harmony and cooperation that has characterized our discussions so far in the nuclear tests and disarmament field. All of us have been struck also by relative harmony which is reported to have prevailed during the talks here of the Foreign Ministers of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union. This new spirit presents the Geneva Conference with a unique opportunity to find new areas of agreement on measures to reduce international tensions. It also places on the Conference the responsibility to seize the opportunities presented by the atmosphere of détente in order to reach agreements involving physical measures of disarmament.

To what measure should the Eighteen-Nation Conference give priority? We suggest measures to reduce the risk of surprise attack, such as the establishment of ground observation posts; measures to control the wider dissemination of nuclear weapons; as the Foreign Minister of Ireland suggested; actual physical measures of disarmament, as Lord Home proposed, and continued negotiation towards a comprehensive test-ban agreement. We must continue to proceed step by step, building up that degree of confidence which will enable far-reaching measures of disarmament to be implemented. Although progress has been slow in the Eighteen-Nation Conference, it would be wrong to be discouraged. As in the case of the limited test-ban, and the Austrian State Treaty, a seemingly endless and inconclusive discussion can lead, suddenly, to progress and achievement. We now have the prerequisite for successful negotiations - a world-wide conviction that security cannot be enhanced by the arms race and that countries with different political philosophies share an overriding common interest - that of promoting and achieving world stability through the control and elimination of armaments and the settlement of disputes by peaceful means.

The Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, Mr. Gromyko, in his statement in Plenary Session on September 19, suggested that the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament should convene early next year at the level of heads of government or state. I should like to quote the remarks of the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Lester Pearson, concerning this proposal. On September 25, the Prime Minister said that, "I have always felt that while there are occasions when summit meetings are essential you should be very careful to do all the preparation in the valley before you try to get up to the summit for your meeting. In other words, a summit conference is attended with so much publicity and arouses so much in the way of expectation that you should be pretty