

accompanied by a corresponding reduction in equipment or that the savings realized as a result of these cuts in manpower would not be used for financing other projects to increase the war potential of the Communist world. Above all, the Soviet proposal does not touch the central problem which concerns us all—the threat of nuclear warfare.

The Western Powers surely cannot assume that a mere declaration on the part of the Soviet Union of its intention to reduce forces is a peaceful gesture that will promote greater confidence. Such a move could equally be interpreted as a shrewd attempt to lure the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to advance along the road of unilateral and uncontrolled disarmament to the point where they would be unable to provide for their security and where their very unity would be seriously compromised. Indeed, the Soviet leaders themselves have frankly admitted that their opposition to NATO has not changed and that they will continue their efforts to weaken it, if possible, to break up the alliance.

It would seem to me that this latest Soviet move points very clearly to the need for achieving disarmament through an agreed and safeguarded programme. If Mr. Bulganin and his colleagues are sincere and really wish

to reduce their armed forces, why will they not agree to the establishment of adequate and effective controls as the Western nations have done in the proposals they have made in the United Nations Sub-Committee?

By adopting a more open-minded and positive approach to this central problem of control, the Soviet Union could do more to establish an atmosphere of mutual confidence than they could ever hope to achieve through the mere announcement of reductions which cannot be checked. I submit that our final judgment should await such indications as will be provided by the Soviet approach to the future negotiations: this will be the acid test of their sincerity.

The problem of disarmament, like many of the problems facing the world today, cannot be solved by action on the part of one nation or group of nations alone. A solution can only be achieved through the whole-hearted co-operation of all members of the international community, whatever their political structure or ideological leanings. We can only hope that when negotiations are resumed, the Soviet Union will see fit to lend its support to collective measures which, in the words of the New York Times, "will make disarmament a blessing and not a trap in which freedom can die".



AT DISARMAMENT MEETINGS

Mr. Paul Martin, Canadian Delegate to Disarmament Commission meetings held in New York this month, chats with Mr. Emilio Nunez Portuondo, centre, of Cuba, Commission chairman for July, and Mr. Jules Moch, of France.