

advisory committee could report direct to them--but the Disarmament Commission of the UN would be kept informed and consulted. For its own purposes, this advisory group could receive reports and suggestions from the negotiating body, from the technical study-group or from other members of the Disarmament Commission.

We are often properly reminded that the interests of every country in the world are at stake in disarmament. But, obviously, in making progress toward the goal of disarmament, different countries have different roles to play. The contribution which can be made by the great powers is naturally different from that which can be made by the middle and small powers of the world. There is a good deal to be said for recognizing this fact in the machinery which we set up for examining the question of disarmament.

Role of Smaller Members

It would be a practical impossibility to have technical studies on disarmament measures which did not involve experts from the great powers. However, there is another important area of disarmament in which the middle and smaller powers have a special role and, I believe, a vital role. This is in the broad field of principles, proposals and new ideas. In our view, a representative group of UN members, as I have suggested, could make very helpful suggestions to the main negotiating group.

Let me illustrate this by giving some examples of what such an advisory committee, such a watch-dog committee, could do.

First, they could consider the various sets of principles which have been advanced with a view to finding a common definition. It is perfectly obvious, from what we have heard today, that this First Committee could very easily get into a debate on general principles, and would then probably reach only disagreement at the end of that debate. I suggest that here is a field for this advisory committee--consideration of the various sets of principles which have been advanced.

Secondly--and I am simply putting these suggestions before the representatives for their consideration, there are probably many others that will be made--they could look at specific proposals, like the important Irish proposal for the prevention of the dissemination of nuclear weapons. The non-nuclear powers, and indeed the people of the world at large, are vitally concerned in this proposal.

Thirdly, they could consider how best to deal with weapons of mass destruction--nuclear, bacteriological and chemical--and their means of delivery.