

(Mr. Burns, Canada)

"I would also like to ask the representative of Canada if African States will have to seek the agreement of South Africa or Portugal... in their bid to declare Africa a nuclear-free zone." (1366th meeting, p. 26)

The representative of Ghana also repeated the essence of this question in his statement today.

Since these questions were put by the representatives of Ecuador and Ghana, we have, as the Committee knows, heard a most informative statement by the representative of Mexico, Mr. Garcia Robles, at our 1369th meeting. He set out for us the progress which has been made by the Preparatory Committee for denuclearization of Latin America in developing an agreement for:

"preventing in radical and absolute fashion proliferation of nuclear weapons in a particular region." (1369th meeting, p. 22)

It seems to the Canadian delegation that in this statement he has clarified the problem of delimiting a nuclear weapon free zone and determining what territories should be included in it. I should like to quote his observation, recorded on page 32 of document A/C.1/PV.1369:

"As regards the definition of the boundary of the zone, it seems to us that probably the most practical method for the determination of such boundaries is the one whereby the zone in question is automatically delimited as the sum total of all the territories of the States which are or may become members of the Preparatory Committee, and of those territories concerning which, ... the responsible Government is prepared to assume the same obligations as those assumed by the Latin American States."

Following from this, it seems necessary to recognize, in creating a nuclear-free zone, that if certain States in a region will not participate in it, either the limits of the zone will be defined to exclude them, or else a determination will be made by the States favouring such a zone that they cannot bind themselves indefinitely to remain nuclear free unless all their neighbours remain nuclear-free as well, and it would seem to the Canadian delegation that operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.1/L.346 was framed with this consideration in mind.