

For all the reasons which I have given, the Canadian Delegation considers it to be of the highest importance for the 18-Nation Committee to resume its work at once and to make the greatest possible effort to achieve progress in the tasks before it.

The very thorough and well-thought-out statements which were made by many members of this Committee on the item whose consideration has just been concluded — the item on nuclear testing — have, we think, made it quite clear that the achievement of an end to nuclear testing by means of a well-guaranteed agreement which is satisfactory to all the nuclear powers and which will be observed by them is the first task to be accomplished in the field of disarmament; it is the most important task, for without its accomplishment we cannot expect any real progress towards general disarmament. We think, therefore, as I have just stated, that it is of the highest importance that the 18-Nation Committee should return to its work in a suitable forum, where it can proceed with dispatch to concentrate on this subject and to reach agreement as called for in the resolution adopted a few days ago by the General Assembly. We think that the progress which has been achieved in that matter has been largely due to the presence and efforts of the eight non-aligned countries which are participating in the work of the 18-Nation Disarmament Committee.

That is why we lay stress on the Committee of the Whole of the 18-Nation Committee. In the same manner as it achieved the progress which has been reached up to the present, we hope that it will be possible by the date set down in this resolution, which we have passed with a large majority, to report back substantial progress by 10 December. We think it is essential that we lose no time in reassembling and commencing our work.

My Delegation, for these reasons, supports the statement of the representative of the United Arab Republic and of many other delegations which would welcome any initiative that would take note of the 18-Nation Disarmament Committee reports, urge that disarmament negotiations be expeditiously continued in a spirit of compromise and request that a progress report be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly within a reasonable period of time. Canada hopes that the General Assembly will with one voice support a resolution to this effect.