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DEA/50271-T-40

*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
à la délégation au Comité sur le désarmement*

*Secretary of State for External Affairs  
to Delegation to Disarmament Committee*

TELEGRAM N-325

Ottawa, December 28, 1962

CONFIDENTIAL. PRIORITY.

Reference: Your Tel 1957 Dec 26, 1962.

## DISARMAMENT: THIRD SESSION OF ENDC

Thank you for your useful commentary on the present state of negotiations in the ENDC and your assessment of the probable situation when the Conference resumes on January 15. I agree with your appraisal and share your view that, despite the evident lack of progress during the third round, there are a number of circumstances which suggest that a further narrowing of differences may be possible in resumed discussions. Much of course depends on the attitude of the major powers, but you should continue to press for early agreement on the cessation of nuclear weapons tests and other collateral measures not only for their intrinsic value but as a means of developing a climate conducive to progress on a general disarmament treaty. I would welcome any suggestions you may have for expediting agreements on nuclear testing and on other collateral measures which the co-chairman have already accepted for consideration in the committee of the whole.

2. The Cabinet memorandum of February 13, 1961, has been reviewed in the department in light of developments in the negotiations since it was approved. However, I consider that it still reflects the government's overall policy on disarmament and the relative importance we attach to specific measures of disarmament including verification and peace-keeping provisions. Although in 1961 we believed that measures for restricting the spread of nuclear weapons, for reducing the risk of war by accident, and for prohibiting mass destruction weapons in outer space "should be included in the first stage of disarmament," this view has been modified only to the extent that we now regard such collateral measures as suitable subjects of separate agreements for implementation before final agreement is reached on the first stage of a disarmament programme. This is more an extension of than a substantive change in the policy approved by Cabinet, and would not therefore call for any formal amendment.

3. The Cabinet memorandum of February 1961 was prepared and approved before the nuclear test talks had been merged with the disarmament talks. The government's position on testing is however sufficiently well established that new Cabinet authority is not considered necessary.

4. I agree that you should continue to give special study to the items listed in your paragraph 5 relating to a general disarmament treaty and you might also bear in mind that the subject of peacekeeping is currently receiving intensive study in the department.

5. We have asked DRB for comments on the UK paper concerning control of fissile material production.

[H.C.] GREEN