

- everyone to take the two superpowers to task for failing to live up to the commitments they made at UNSSOD I and, before that, in the NPT, and to tell them to provide greater leadership by setting a better example in disarmament.

COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

The Final Document of UNSSOD I sets out the consensus about the machinery needed to pursue arms control and disarmament. For maximum effectiveness, it states, two kinds of bodies are required, one deliberative and the other negotiating (para 113). The General Assembly should remain the main deliberative organ (para 115) and in future, its First Committee should deal "*only with questions of disarmament and related international security questions*" (para 117). A Disarmament Commission, composed of all UN members, should study in greater detail items discussed by the First Committee (para 118), and a Committee on Disarmament (CD) was created as the "*single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of limited size taking decisions on the basis of consensus*" (para 120).

As finally organized, the CD has 40 members. For the first time, all five nuclear-weapon states have agreed to take part. France had been absent from the previous committees since 1961, and the Peoples' Republic of China had not participated since being admitted to the UN in 1971. The other members are 21 non-aligned nations, seven others from NATO, and seven others from the Warsaw Pact. The CD was obviously designed as the principal forum for implementing the recommendations of UNSSOD I. It has been slow in getting going, but perhaps that is inevitable at a time when there is a lack of agreement between the superpowers. For some members, this intense involvement in disarmament is a new experience. Their desire to achieve real progress is as great as that of any nation, but they may not have the reservoir of experts, inside or outside government, to translate this concern into policy. Sometimes, the only people with a continuing knowledge of the subject are the staff members of the missions to the UN in New York and Geneva, and they are not backed up by think tanks or study groups at home, nor a strong network of