

those two proposals--one from each side. And we described this as discussing the problem in packages. This was not a proposal that we seek only partial disarmament, as some have argued, but rather what we believe is a practical approach to the negotiations--a practical way to start getting results.

A desire to ensure a business-like approach in the Committee was also the basis for my suggestion in the Disarmament Commission, which sat in this room two months ago, that the negotiating committee might benefit from having a neutral chairman. I have in mind a chairman known for his record of impartiality and for his experience in dealing with difficult discussions. The basis of selection would be personal qualities rather than nationality. He might be a national of one of the middle or smaller powers which have not been connected with current negotiations; for instance, I give as an example the chairman of the Disarmament Commission, or it might be a citizen of a country which does not belong to the UN, such as Switzerland.

Task of Chairman

The neutral chairman would attend impartially to the procedures of the Committee and see that it had a regular order of business at each meeting. With such a chairman and procedure, the Committee would be spared, I am sure, the talking at cross-purposes. In short, this neutral chairman could assist in conducting a discussion on the complex maze of problems which compose the disarmament question.

For if we have learned anything at all during the protracted international discussion of disarmament, it is that the subject is complicated, and grows more so with each passing week, month and year of weapons development. We need only remember the statements which have already been made in this discussion today to realize that fact. If we are ever to cope with the growing problem, we must make a start on actual measures, without detracting from the more comprehensive plans related to ultimate goals.

The very complexity of the issues indicates one way to make progress, and that is, through technical studies. It is already common ground that many measures of disarmament and their verification will require joint technical studies before there can be agreement on and implementation of actual measures. And in this connection, I was somewhat surprised to hear the representative of the U.S.S.R. arguing so strongly this morning against technical studies. In a minute or two I hope to be able to show that his own side have expressed great interest and have actually carried out joint technical studies in the three-power committee at Geneva.