

I welcome your recognition of the need to continue working towards general and complete disarmament, while at the same time paying increased attention to more limited objectives aimed at initial measures of disarmament and at the further reduction of tension. Agreement on general and complete disarmament is of necessity and longer term undertaking but the importance of the goal is so great and the consequence of failure so serious that it must be pursued with exceptional patience and determination regardless of present or possible future difficulties.

You refer to the various proposals which the Soviet Government has put forward on general and complete disarmament but, as you know, the Western nations also have put forward constructive and far-reaching proposals in this field. Moreover, the West has similarly offered a number of proposals for collateral measures of disarmament aimed at promoting international peace and security. It will continue to be a primary aim of the Canadian Government during the resumed negotiations in Geneva to seek ways of reconciling differences between existing proposals, both on general disarmament and on collateral measures, and I hope that the Soviet Government will follow the same constructive approach.

It is encouraging to read in your letter that the United Nations can, in your view, contribute positively to peaceful solutions of territorial and frontier problems. I heartily agree with you, and indeed believe that it can contribute effectively to the peaceful solution of many other disputes as well. You will be aware of my personal interest in that organization and of the important place it occupies in the formulation and implementation of Canadian foreign policy. Canada has, for example, given active support to United Nations peace-keeping operations, contributing tangibly in men, money and materials. In addition, as I emphasized in my speech to the General Assembly on September 19, 1963, we