



CANADA

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 60/25

A PROCESS OF BALANCED CONCESSIONS

A statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Green, to the House of Commons on June 15, 1960.

Yesterday ... the Hon. Member for Essex East (Mr. Martin) asked about the disarmament conference, and today there may be further questions arising from the tabling by the Prime Minister yesterday of the exchange of letters between himself and Mr. Khrushchov about the latest Soviet disarmament proposals. Perhaps I could deal with this situation by making a brief statement on the Canadian position at this time...

In the Canadian view it is important that in these negotiations all ten nations represented on the Committee should lose no opportunity to explore every possible avenue of progress in disarmament. The Canadian delegation has constantly in mind, and tries to make certain that the whole Committee bears in mind, that not only two nations or ten nations but all the nations of the world have a vital interest in disarmament. It is certain that the members of the Committee will be held to account by the other nations of the world if they neglect opportunities for progress in disarmament.

It was in this spirit that the Prime Minister replied to Mr. Khrushchov's letter forwarding the latest Soviet proposals. The Canadian Government wants these proposals to receive a patient and searching examination in the Ten-Nation Committee, as marking the opening of a phase of detailed, business-like and uninterrupted negotiations. We believed there should be no hasty, ill-considered reaction to the new Soviet proposals, but the most careful and constructive examination of these proposals in the Committee which circumstances permit. General Burns has been instructed accordingly, and I am happy to say that the other members of the Western Five on the Committee fully share this view.

I am particularly glad to report this unanimous view of the Western representatives because, as the House is aware, the members of the Western group have had their differences from time to time in the past. The Canadian delegation for its part has, on several