

*Supply—External Affairs*

May I observe that when on July 25 the Prime Minister announced Canada's decision to sign this treaty the authentic text was not available and was, therefore, not tabled in the house before the recess on August 2. Subsequently it was published. However, for the convenience of members I am now tabling copies of the treaty, three copies in the two languages. As all parties in the house have already expressed their wholehearted support of the agreement, arrangements are now being made to deposit Canada's instrument of ratification in Washington, London and Moscow.

The third limited agreement was that reached at the United Nations between the United States and the Soviet union to refrain from stationing or orbiting nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction in outer space. This took the form of separate expressions of intention by the Soviet union and the United States, which were welcomed by a unanimous resolution of the general assembly in October last; and as the house knows, this is a measure which successive Canadian governments have advocated.

It is to be noted that none of these agreements constitutes an actual reduction or elimination of weapons and armed forces. None the less the negotiations in the 18-nation disarmament committee in Geneva have been productive. The committee has played an important role in helping the major powers to reach agreement on all three measures. Even in the field of general disarmament the committee has made a valuable contribution toward narrowing the areas of difference between the communist and western positions.

Important gaps still persist, however, and I would not wish to leave the impression that progress on actual disarmament is likely to be quick and easy. The Soviet position on control, inspection and verification is not giving any evidence of moving in the direction which the west regards as essential.

The outlook therefore for disarmament is fraught with problems, and the 18-nation committee faces an enormous task. In the view of the Canadian government, among those measures designed to increase mutual confidence the committee might give priority to the examination of measures to reduce the risk of surprise attack by land forces, such as the establishment of ground observation posts. If these posts have sufficient liberty to observe within an adequate radius of action they could give assurance against the possibility of sudden war. I appreciate, however, that discussion is likely to be difficult, as the Soviet union tends to try to couple intrinsically worth while measures of this kind with unacceptable conditions, at least unacceptable to the western countries. The Soviet approach to

disarmament has always been heavily influenced by its policies toward central Europe and toward Germany in particular. Their latest objective seems to be to induce the United States and Canada to withdraw their forces across the Atlantic and thereby remove the North American presence which is, to the great majority of Europeans, the tangible evidence of our commitment to their effective defence. The western response to all these overtures must of necessity be such as will take into account the exigencies of NATO defence as well as the need to reduce the risk of war by accident or miscalculation.

It is difficult to maintain the momentum toward disarmament engendered by the limited agreements which have been reached, especially in the face of political setbacks such as the renewal of Soviet harassment in the Berlin corridor. Yet it would be wrong to slacken our efforts, for as in the case of the limited test ban and the Austrian state treaty of 1955 a seemingly endless and inconclusive discussion can lead suddenly to progress and achievement. We owe it to ourselves and to humanity to persist in our efforts to achieve disarmament within conditions of security that will create the kind of international climate which in turn may encourage the settlement of some of the major political problems dividing east and west.

Our membership in the United Nations, along with NATO, our membership in the commonwealth and our proximity to the United States represent the cornerstones of foreign policy which have been recognized by all governments in Canada. Developments at the United Nations therefore continue to occupy a very important place in Canadian foreign policy.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Would the minister allow a question before he turns to another subject, in connection with the very laudable objective of disarmament? Is Canada now negotiating with Poland on a resolution for a nuclear free zone in central Europe?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** There are discussions proceeding between Canada and a number of countries with regard to the proposals for a nuclear free zones. With regard to the particular zone to which the right hon. gentleman directs my attention, as a member of the NATO alliance we must naturally take into consideration the views of our allies and the interests of the alliance itself. I am sure the right hon. gentleman will readily appreciate that. With regard to the proposals for a nuclear free zones in other areas of the world, we have given sympathetic support providing, as I have said before in answer to a question in this house, certain conditions which we believe essential are observed.

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]