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Canada urges new sense of purpose in the quest for world peace

“Impatience, frustration and deep disappointment,” were the words used to describe Canada’s reaction to “the continuing failure of the international community to face up more concretely and rapidly to the awesome problems that confront us in the field of disarmament,” by R. Harry Jay, addressing the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, November 5.

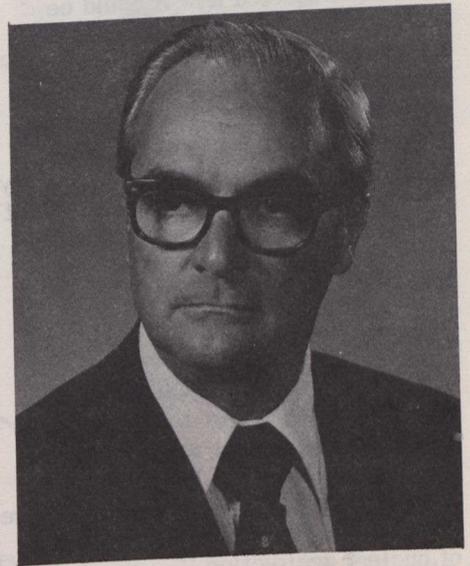
Mr. Jay, Canada’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Office of the UN at Geneva and to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD), wondered whether UN members would have to admit in five years that the declaration of the 1970s as the Disarmament Decade was a “half-hearted gesture”. He feared that “international security will be in even greater peril if, in those next five years, we do not come to grips with the tasks set out for the Decade”. Although “all states of military significance must share in this important task”, he said, “the primary responsibility to ensure that the Disarmament Decade is not a failure rests with the nuclear-weapon states”.

Highest priorities

“Of all the problems we face in the arms control and disarmament field,” said Mr. Jay, “none is greater or deserves higher priority than the need for limitations and reductions in nuclear arms, for an effective ban on all nuclear-weapons testing and for further strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation system.”

The Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) talks between the United States and the Soviet Union have been valuable, said Mr. Jay, but “have not yet slowed the nuclear arms race, much less led to any reduction in nuclear arms”.

The U.S. and the Soviet Union, he said “must make a more determined effort” to surmount the difficult problems confronting them in undertaking nuclear disarmament measures. He appealed to the two principal nuclear



Harry Jay

powers “to move with greater speed towards the conclusion of SALT II and to move on to SALT III – that is, from limitations to effective reductions – at the earliest possible date”.

Nuclear weapons testing

Recent progress toward a ban on all nuclear weapons testing had been “almost imperceptible”, said Mr. Jay. He noted the attempts made by Canada and other countries to help solve the problems that have prevented the achievement of a comprehensive test ban but said it was “difficult to accept that more resolute efforts have not been made by the nuclear-weapons states themselves”.

Canada proposes interim test ban

The Canadian spokesman called on at least the two superpowers, and as many other nuclear-weapon states as possible, to enter into a “formal interim agreement to end their nuclear weapon testing for a defined trial period”. Canada, he said, was not proposing an unverified testing moratorium but “an agreement open to all states, containing measures to ensure first that its terms are fully honoured and second that any nuclear explosions

