

As Mr. Lodge pointed out, further details of these proposals will be developed in the sub-committee, and I would comment now that it seems to the Canadian delegation that this new presentation of United States proposals is a valuable step forward in the process of negotiation. As we understand it this is not a rigid, detailed programme of disarmament; it is rather, a broad outline of the present United States position, realistically stated in the light of all the present conditions, and intended as a basis for further negotiation.

The dismal contrast between this opening United States statement and the intervention immediately afterwards by the distinguished representative of the U.S.S.R. must have been painfully apparent to everyone. Mr. Kuznetsov devoted nearly half of his statement to an intemperate and irrelevant attack on the policies of certain governments, notably that of the United States. It is very much to be regretted that the Soviet Government thought it necessary or wise to initiate the disarmament debate in a way which made it difficult to conclude that that Government had any immediate serious intentions to co-operate constructively in this matter. The chances for fruitful progress were damaged by this Soviet verbal assault, but the subject is one of such vital importance that we must, nevertheless, not be deterred by it from continuing our negotiations and discussions.

That portion of the Soviet statement which did deal with disarmament was, in the main, based directly on the latest proposals of the U.S.S.R. which were circulated on November 17, at a time when the attention of the world was focused more on the use by the U.S.S.R. of its arms to crush Hungarian patriots, than on Soviet proposals for disarmament.

As my Delegation indicated in the general debate at the opening of this Session of the General Assembly, we are prepared to give careful and objective consideration to the latest Soviet proposals. I have already indicated that, so far as it goes, we welcome the new Soviet position on aerial inspection, even though the particular limited application of aerial photography proposed by the U.S.S.R. may involve some serious difficulties, including the implication of the continued division of Germany. The Soviet Government also continues to propose the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons in spite of the fact that according to an explicit statement of the Soviet Delegation itself, it is not, at the present time, technically possible to devise any adequate system for inspecting such a prohibition. Incidentally in view of Soviet attacks on the pacific intentions and the good faith of Western powers, their confidence in the willingness of those powers to make effective such an unconditional, uncontrollable prohibition is as surprising as it is unconvincing.