

members on the Disarmament Committee were called together at the Quai d'Orsay and there we decided to invite the five Eastern members to commence the sittings of the Disarmament Committee on March 15. That invitation was accepted and the 10-member Committee is to start its work on or about March 15, I believe, in Geneva. In addition we set January 18 as the date for the first meeting of representatives of the five Western members of this 10-nation Committee. These meetings commenced in Washington on January 18 and have been continuing ever since.

At the same time, in Paris, the North Atlantic Treaty Council, which of course contains representatives from the 15 nations belonging to NATO, decided that the five Western nations on the Disarmament Committee would do all the preparatory work on disarmament for the East-West summit meeting and, further, that NATO would give all the help it could to the Disarmament Committee. You see, NATO is very much involved in the question of disarmament, because NATO has most of the forces which, of course, would be involved in disarmament and would have to work out many of the problems.

Five-Nation Group

Thus the five-nation group of which Canada is a member has a double function. It is, first of all, to participate in the discussions with the five Eastern nations and, second, to do the preparatory work on disarmament for the United States, the United Kingdom and France for use by them at the East-West summit meeting. Arrangements were made to keep the NATO Council in the picture and that there should be regular reports to the Council. That plan is being carried out. The five-member Disarmament Committee is reporting to the Council from time to time.

To date, while the five nations have been meeting only since January 18, there has been considerable progress made. General Burns has been in Washington and he comes back here from time to time. I had an interview with him last Friday. Canada is putting forward her proposals which I am not at liberty to disclose as yet. Also we are getting great help from our own Department of National Defence.

There is a series of studies being made under the direction of the five-nation group and the whole situation is really hopeful. We believe that the general objective on this question of disarmament must be to achieve a maximum of disarmament and reduction of military forces which could be verified and controlled and which is compatible with the maintenance of adequate security against aggression. However, no one should underestimate the difficulties that lie ahead nor look for universal panaceas in the near future.

There is no intention on the part of the Canadian Government to let down the guard so far as Canada is concerned, but we do believe that a genuine effort should be made to work out some scheme of disarmament. If every nation on that 10-member Committee feels the same way about it, then there will be results which will benefit mankind. This should not be taken as meaning that, if the five Eastern countries will only approach it sincerely, there will be worthwhile