

It seems evident from the stated attitudes of both the United States and the Soviet Union that a resolution which simply calls for the cessation of nuclear tests will not be enough and that it must be supplemented by another calling for the conclusion of a treaty which would provide a permanent guarantee against the resumption of tests. In this connexion, if we look at resolutions 1577 and 1578 adopted at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly, we find that both these resolutions combined these ideas. Both resolutions called on the nuclear powers negotiating at Geneva to reach an agreement on the cessation of testing of nuclear weapons and, pending the conclusion of an agreement, to continue their voluntary suspension of tests. Canada recognizes the urgent need to reinforce the moral obligation of states to refrain from testing by a judicially binding agreement accompanied by effective international controls. For this reason my delegation will support the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.280 submitted by the United Kingdom and the United States.

As for the resumption of negotiations on the cessation of nuclear testing, the Canadian delegation believes that there is no reason why this should not take place immediately. The distinguished and experienced men who were representing the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union at the Geneva talks are here in New York and, if so authorized, could resume their work at once.

It is also for consideration whether those nations which have been negotiating so far might be joined by other nations which have developed nuclear weapons or have the potential to do so. That is a matter on which there might be some expression of opinion in this Committee.

Recapitulation

To conclude, I should like to recapitulate Canadian views regarding the most effective manner to halt nuclear tests and the action this Assembly should take at this time.

First, the General Assembly should adopt as quickly as possible a resolution demanding the immediate end of nuclear weapon tests by all nations and in all environments.

Secondly, in addition to bringing nuclear tests to a halt immediately, Canada wholeheartedly supports the view that the nuclear powers should return to negotiations with respect to the problem of nuclear tests without delay. They should rapidly settle the differences which separate them, and agree on a binding treaty to put a definitive stop to nuclear testing. This Assembly should, therefore, give its full endorsement to the draft resolution embodying this view which has been submitted by the delegations of the United States and the United Kingdom.