

"The two superpowers were at first co-chairmen of the Disarmament Committee, and we were working for them and the committee. The co-chairmen ran everything with an iron hand. The Final Document of the first Special Session on Disarmament in 1978 got rid of the institution of co-chairmanship and made it rotating. Because of that it was possible to get France and China to join the CD, because they weren't about to join it under the old system of two-power paramountcy or, as the Chinese called it, hegemony.

"We started having quite a few treaties in the period of détente, starting with the Antarctic Treaty. We had nine multilateral treaties that were mainly negotiated in the committee (or, later, the Conference on Disarmament). Two that we considered really important were the Partial Test Ban [Treaty] in 1963 and the Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] in 1968; and following the NPT, the two superpowers started the SALT [Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty] talks in 1969. Then we got multilaterally the Seabed Treaty in 1971 [forbidding the emplacement of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction on the seabed] and the Biological Weapons Convention. They were followed by the EnMod, the Environmental Modification Treaty. The Outer Space Treaty in 1967 we didn't negotiate—that was done by the Outer Space Committee—but it was all part of the détente period. And there was Tlatelolco, also, in 1967.

"If you want to hear a story, I'll tell you about Tlatelolco—that's a suburb of Mexico City where we met—and how I prepared the first draft of the main portions of the Tlatelolco Treaty for Garcia Robles overnight.

"Secretary-General U Thant appointed me as a technical consultant to the group, at the request of Garcia Robles, who was then the under-secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Mexican Government. We had worked together in the early days of the Security Council Department, when he was director of the Political Division and I was working under him as acting chief of the Middle East Section. I was sent down to Mexico City and, for the first day or two, everyone was correct but somewhat cool. Then, after they learned that I was a Canadian and not an American, they became palsy-walsy. I found that [to be] a very interesting experience, because the atmosphere in Mexico City was a little different from what it is in New York.

"Then, things went along well and I was called upon to make some statements to help promote the idea of the nuclear-free zone. Actually Garcia Robles needed me for the UN point-of-view to support the whole idea because, you know, the Latin American countries were giving up unilaterally the possibility of 'going nuclear' without any assurance of a *quid pro quo* from the nuclear powers. We were prepared with lots of papers and books on the whole problem of verification and everything else. Nobody ever read them; they called the big book 'the white elephant,' and it took them two years to translate it all into Spanish!

"Anyway, after we had been there five days, Garcia Robles called me in and he said, 'Bill, you know, this is going fine and I think we should aim at having another session of the committee [the preparatory committee on the Denuclearization of Latin America].' I said, 'Fine.' He said, 'I think that we