

The Eighteen Nation Committee is responsible for detailed negotiations and only through its continued efforts can progress toward disarmament be realized. That is why we must, as the distinguished representative of Norway stated on September 21, "...give encouragement and guidance to the negotiating nations in Geneva". All members of the United Nations have a fundamental obligation to assist in every way in ensuring that agreement on this vital subject is reached without delay. The world simply cannot afford the risk of failure.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS

In the disarmament talks at Geneva and in this General Assembly, it has been made very clear that the problem of nuclear weapons tests is of the gravest concern to all members of the United Nations. My Government maintains its firm opposition to all nuclear weapons testing, for two reasons.

First, we are convinced that continued testing poses an ever-increasing danger to human health. Of this I shall say more presently. Second, the ultimate security of mankind is weakened, not strengthened, by further testing. No matter what considerations may lead the major powers to undertake nuclear tests, their effect can only be to accelerate and to make even more perilous the race in nuclear armaments. The powers concerned must not ignore the fact that the arms race itself gives rise to fears which in turn become a factor in intensifying competition in armaments.

I believe that these fundamental points are not in dispute. But the tests have still not been stopped. The proposals submitted by the eight uncommitted countries represented at Geneva, and the new technical data advanced recently by the United States and the United Kingdom, have