

Nations General Assembly on September 25 welcomed the decision of the Soviet Union to modify its proposals for eliminating nuclear weapon vehicles. The Soviet Union's new proposals introduce a change in principle which may possibly be far-reaching, although a detailed examination in the Disarmament Committee will be necessary in order to determine their full significance and effect. While the Canadian delegation wishes to reserve its final views until more is known about what is involved, we consider that the Soviet Union's proposals may help to remove the block to negotiations created by the opposed positions of the two sides on this question.

With regard to the third category -- questions not yet sufficiently explored -- the Eighteen-Nation Committee can, for example, make a valuable contribution in the field of peace-keeping. Both the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics draft treaties recognize the importance of improving the means of keeping the peace and contain provisions in regard to it.

The joint statement of agreed principles stipulates that disarmament must be accompanied by the establishment of reliable procedures for the peaceful settlement of disputes and effective arrangements for the maintenance of peace in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

Mr. Chairman, for all of the reasons which I have given, the Canadian Government considers it to be of the highest importance for the Eighteen-Nation Committee to resume its work at once and to make the greatest possible effort to achieve progress in the tasks before it. My delegation, therefore, supports the statement of the distinguished representative of the United Arab Republic and of many other delegations welcoming any initiative which would take note of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee reports, urge that disarmament negotiations be expeditiously continued in a spirit of compromise and request that a progress report be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly within a reasonable period of time. Canada hopes that the United Nations General Assembly will with one voice support a resolution to this effect.