

as I said during the discussion on the order of business, favours the holding of a world disarmament conference, under certain conditions.

It is self-evident that for disarmament to be general and complete, which is the goal this Assembly has agreed upon in Resolution 1378 XIV (1959) and reaffirmed several times since, all nuclear powers and potential nuclear powers must take part at an appropriate stage in the negotiations. I recall the words of the Hon. Mr. Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, in the General Assembly on 24 September, when he said, "Canada hopes that the People's Republic of China will be invited to take part in the discussions." The world disarmament conference may serve to bring this about. But it is also evident that there are many difficult problems in convening such a conference. We ought to think these problems through, in discussion in this committee, and in private consultations between interested delegations, before the UNGA takes the final action for this year by resolution. The problems include (a) under whose auspices will the conference be held; (b) who will issue the invitations; (c) how will it be financed; (d) what is the agenda to be; (e) can there be prior agreement on the principles to serve as a basis of discussion; (f) can procedural rules be agreed to; (g) when and where will the conference be held. Unless this committee can establish a substantial measure of agreement on these points the prospects for holding a successful conference would appear to be very uncertain.

To sum up, what we have to do, in considering this proposal for a world disarmament conference, is to think through clearly what we hope it will accomplish--not setting our sights too high--and make it clear what we think its agenda should be. It would be in the highest degree irresponsible if we should allow ourselves to be deluded by the idea that, as the United Nations and the ENDC has failed to make any progress since the Moscow treaty and other partial measures of 1963, there is nothing to do now but pass a resolution calling for a world disarmament conference, and think nothing more need be done about disarmament until this conference is held.

A final point. Even if we establish a respectable consensus on how the problems just mentioned are to be solved, or approached, we should make it clear that the disarmament dialogue should continue, pending the holding of the hoped-for world conference. I have mentioned some of the measures intended to slow down, if not halt, the