

We hope also that all countries will become parties to the limited test-ban. Canada has noted the proposal of Peking of July 31 for a conference of heads of governments of all countries to discuss the total prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons. We welcome this evidence of Peking's interest in the elimination of nuclear arms and we hope this will lead them to the conclusion that universal acceptance of the partial test-ban agreement would be an important first step in that direction. We hope that Peking will come to share the view that the question of nuclear disarmament, while a most important feature of a disarmament agreement, cannot be considered in isolation from the elimination of other types of weapons and the reduction of armed forces. The distinguished representative of India, Madame Pandit, explained in this Committee just a few days ago why this is so. The Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Conference is now engaged in the task of working out a balanced disarmament agreement designed to have world-wide application. It is realized that a treaty on general and complete disarmament must embrace all nations - or at least all major military nations. We hope that Peking will eventually support the important efforts now being made to develop a programme for disarmament and will appreciate that to call a world conference of heads of governments to consider disarmament is, at this stage, premature.

Canada will strongly endorse and support a draft resolution calling on the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Conference to continue efforts to reach agreement on underground tests. We hope that the Disarmament Committee will soon reconvene in Geneva to resume its important work both in this field and in respect of collateral or preliminary measures and general and complete disarmament.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask your indulgence and that of the Committee to make a few general remarks on the subject of disarmament and measures preliminary to it. I regret that I will not be able to participate in the work of this Committee when it discusses the item on general disarmament. I therefore would like to take this opportunity to stress how important it is for the General Assembly to consider how we can best help to maintain this new momentum and achieve new significant agreements.

In the opinion of the Canadian Government, the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Conference is the most effective forum for disarmament negotiations yet established and deserves strong support from all United Nations members. It would be wrong to underestimate the role of the Geneva Conference - both past and future - in helping to reach agreements among the major powers. In the case of the accords on the partial test-ban and the direct communications link, it is significant that proposals on these subjects similar to the agreements adopted have been considered in the Eighteen-Nation Committee well in advance of the time when the agreements were reached. The same is true with regard to prohibition of orbiting weapons of mass destruction in outer space, which appeared as an item on the Conference's list of collateral measures. This shows, in our view, the special value of the Eighteen-Nation Committee as a forum in which the two main sides, and all the other participants as well, can submit their ideas, allow them to be considered, studied and developed so as to provide a basis for agreement when the time becomes ripe for an accord to be adopted. The reaction of the members of the Eighteen-Nation Conference has also been of assistance to