

point and on the proposals to carry out the reduction from the present great stocks of nuclear weapons and their delivery vehicles to the minimum, as Mr. Gromyko had suggested.

The Committee is currently considering the question of the denuclearization of Latin America, five meetings having so far (November 15) been devoted to this item.

Special Political Committee

Seventy-six delegations had been heard from on the question of *apartheid* when the Committee decided on October 30 to suspend its debate on this item in order to consider the situation created by South Africa's decision to resume the trial of African leaders whose release, together with that of "all persons imprisoned, interned or subjected to other restrictions for having opposed the policy of *apartheid*", had been called for by the Assembly in Resolution 1881(XVIII) of October 11.

While no resolution emerged from the debate, various suggestions, put forward with a view to solving the problem now facing the United Nations, continued to attract attention. Notable among these were (a) that of Denmark, which would have the Assembly guarantee the protection of South Africa's white citizens in "a democratic multi-racial society" to be established following the abolition of *apartheid* and (b) that of Guinea, which would have South Africa's major trading partners work out concrete proposals to bring about a peaceful change in the country's racial policies.

Speaking in the debate on *apartheid* on October 18, the Secretary of State for External Affairs remarked:

There have been some demands from some members that South Africa should be expelled from the United Nations or that the Security Council should impose other sanctions on South Africa in order to force its Government to change its policies. Because we believe that the South African Government's racial policies are abhorrent and degrading and offensive to human dignity does not mean that the best remedy is to force South Africa outside the boundaries of the world community. Expulsion would make it even more difficult to persuade the white population of South Africa to seek a way out of their present untenable position and could conceivably intensify the difficulties of the non-white population.

This Assembly has a most serious responsibility in this matter. My Delegation believes that only if we act with restraint is there any possibility of convincing the present Government of South Africa of the necessity to come to terms with the great movement of independence and freedom which has swept through the continent of Africa during the past 20 years. If we pass a resolution condemning South Africa's policies but calling for action which, because of lack of unanimity regarding the means to be employed, in practice will not be carried out, we will be no closer to a peaceful solution to this problem.

Mr. Martin went on to say that all problems of concern to the members of the United Nations could not be resolved merely by the votes cast in the Assembly. In his view, the responsibility for considering steps suitable to influence the South African Government continued to lie with the Security Council. Emphasis, he went on, had also been given in the debate to the need for more study of alternative possibilities for the future in South Africa. It might, therefore, be hoped