

Our sole object is to bring about a constructive result in this debate. We are aware that other members of the Committee, and notably of course India, are seeking to evolve a compromise formula on principles, and that some progress is being made. We warmly applaud this painstaking effort which, if it succeeds, will greatly facilitate the resumption of negotiations. Negotiations in the future would surely benefit from having, as a new point of departure, a unanimous recommendation on principles by the General Assembly.

Importance of Renewed Negotiations

Even with agreement of principles, however, it is generally recognized that, in view of the recent presidential elections in the United States, some delay can be expected before negotiations are resumed between the major military powers. But because this delay in the main negotiations seems unavoidable, this does not mean either that preparations for resumed negotiations should be left in abeyance or that international interest in disarmament issues should be relaxed. Indeed, it may be more important than ever to focus world attention on the problem during this intervening period; to fail to do so would be to invite a dangerous situation in which the governments mainly concerned would be less responsive to the world-wide demand for action on disarmament. In the view of the Canadian Government, it is essential that preparations begin immediately to facilitate the resumption and continuation of negotiations. This reflects our concern and conviction, as a middle power, about the prevailing deadlock on disarmament. We firmly believe that all non-nuclear powers share that concern and also that they have responsibility for maintaining momentum in the search for disarmament agreements.

Duty of Non-Nuclear Powers

No government, large or small, can afford to ignore these issues which vitally affect peoples all over the world. Humanity expects, and has a right to expect, that there will be no prolonged period of inaction. These are the underlying purposes of the three-power draft resolution. The preamble clearly reflects the concern about the interruption of the negotiations, the essential need for immediate preparations for their continuation, and a recognition that, while the main responsibility rests on the nuclear powers, all other states have a responsibility and have the deepest interest in ensuring that negotiations are vigorously pursued.

Three-Power Resolution

To meet the essential need, and to give expression to the responsibility and concern of all nations, the operative part of the draft resolution submitted by Norway, Sweden and Canada provides for the following: