

## Problems of Conventional Arms

Under the first heading, the differences in the positions of the two sides concerning conventional armaments and armed forces have been greatly lessened as a result of changes introduced in both plans during the course of negotiations in Geneva. The Canadian Delegation believes that agreement on the question of conventional disarmament has now come within reach. There are also good prospects of overcoming the remaining differences in a closely related field — there is a remaining difference regarding the level of armed forces at the end of the first stage, but there is already virtual agreement concerning the level of armed forces at the end of the second stage. In the field of conventional armaments and armed forces, the Canadian Delegation feels that it will also be important for the Disarmament Committee to study the obligations of smaller countries with regard to the levels of conventional armaments and armed forces which they may be permitted to retain during the second and third stages.

In the second category (that is, questions on which there are still substantial differences between the positions of the two sides), one of the key areas where these fairly large differences still exist is that of the reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear-weapons vehicles. The representatives of the United States, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom have pointed out what these differences are, and the First Committee has been able to judge for itself that there is still a great deal to do before agreement on this point can be achieved. Although this question was explored during the last round of discussions in the Disarmament Committee, further consideration is, of course, necessary in order to develop a basis for agreement. In the plenary meeting on 25 September of the United Nations General Assembly, the Secretary of State for External Affairs for Canada welcomed the decision of the Soviet Union to modify its proposals for eliminating nuclear-weapons 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 the full significance and effect of the proposals. The Canadian Delegation must reserve its final views until more is known about what is involved; but we consider that the Soviet Union's proposals may help to remove the block to negotiations which had been created by the opposed positions of the two sides on this question.

With regard to the third category (questions not yet sufficiently explored), the 18-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 have in their draft treaties recognized the importance of improving the means of keeping the peace, and both draft treaties 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 by effective arrangements for the maintenance of peace in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter.