

Moreover, Mr. Chairman, I think it is important, indeed I think it is essential, that this reassessment and any changes which may result from it should be made inside the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and should be the result of collective discussion and collective agreement. Unilateral decisions, without such discussion or agreement, would weaken and indeed might even destroy NATO. We must then work together as members of this coalition, if unity and strength are to be preserved. That is the very essence of the NATO concept, and without it NATO is not likely to last very long. Yet, this kind of close and continuous co-operation may be more difficult now in NATO than it has been, now that the fear of direct all out military aggression against Western Europe seems to have lessened. That is one of the dangers confronting us. It is also, Mr. Chairman, the reason why the non-military aspects of co-operation are becoming more and more important. Indeed that form of co-operation, and we are beginning I think to recognize this more and more, is an important aspect of collective defence in the new situation.

I hope that the committee of three which has been set up by NATO will be able to make some recommendations in this field which will strengthen this side of NATO. This committee hopes to be able to finish its work and make its report some time in October.

The United Nations--disarmament

But while, Mr. Chairman--this will be the last matter that I will be discussing in my general statement--NATO is important and is essential to our security and the development of the Atlantic community, the United Nations, with all its disappointments and its weaknesses as well as with all its accomplishments and its strengths, remains the basis of our general international policy. One of the most important things to be discussed through the United Nations now is, of course, disarmament. As members of the committee know, the Sub-Committee of the United Nations. Committee on Disarmament, of which Canada has for some years now been a member, met in London last Spring and the Western side did produce proposals at that meeting which provided for the limitation and reduction of armaments by stages under control in each stage. It is also true that at that time it was proposed on our side that at the beginning of the second stage there should be a limitation on nuclear tests, a matter which is of very great and understandable interest to all of us, a limitation of nuclear tests supervised by a special branch of the international control organ.

At the meeting comprehensive agreement was not possible, and therefore an effort was made to bring about a more limited agreement as the first stage to making a more comprehensive agreement. The more limited agreement would have dealt primarily with conventional forces, but there was also a provision dealing with nuclear tests. But agreement on that was also not possible. Therefore, the Sub-Committee reported in July to the full Committee in New York and its report, one