

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to succeed in eliminating the tense international atmosphere and to continue efforts to achieve progress on complete and general disarmament and other matters leading to the relaxation of international tensions.

We think that everyone recognizes that to advance towards general and complete disarmament and to get agreement on measures preliminary to disarmament which could reduce tension and the danger of nuclear war, will require intense effort and the most painstaking negotiations. Canada maintains the view that the best place for detailed and comprehensive negotiations on a disarmament programme is the conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on disarmament.

The Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee endorsed by Resolution 1722 (XVI) of December 20, 1961, is in our view well suited to the tasks. The conference has several advantages as a negotiating forum. I refer in particular to the role of the eight non-aligned countries; Brazil, Burma, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Sweden and United Arab Republic. The distinguished representative of the United Arab Republic in his statement in the First Committee on November 5 -- and we agree with what he said -- has shown that many changes in both plans were made in response to questions and suggestions of the non-aligned members. The presence of these countries in the Eighteen-Nation Committee has made it representative of all major geographical areas of the world. Their active participation in the conference is a constant reminder that disarmament is not the concern of the great powers alone but of all countries, large and small.

The Eighteen-Nation Conference has also developed procedures and working methods which are appropriate to its task. It has as its permanent Co-Chairmen representatives of the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics who have actively co-operated in forwarding the work of the conference. The conference moved from a