

DOCS

External Affairs  
Supplementary Paper

LIBRARY DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

No. 65/2 Statement by the Representative of Canada,  
Lieutenant-General E.L.M. Burns, to the  
United Nations Disarmament Commission,  
New York, May 7, 1965.

Many delegations that have previously spoken have said that they were disappointed that the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee had achieved no positive results during its 1964 sessions. The Canadian delegation is as disappointed as any other. Nevertheless, as many speakers have already emphasized, it would be wrong to allow our disappointment to slacken our efforts to make progress. We fully share the view expressed by the representatives of both India and the United Arab Republic that the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee has done useful and important work thus far. As the representative of the United Arab Republic said last Tuesday:

"...We believe that (the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee) has served a useful purpose, not only because it has kept the dialogue on disarmament going, but also because of its representative character". (75th meeting, Pages 42 and 43)

We agree that the Disarmament Commission, which is now meeting, can give the negotiations in the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee a new impetus and new guidance, and we urge that as soon as we have completed our work negotiations in Geneva should be resumed.

We have heard the Soviet Union delegation's view of why no results were obtained in 1964. That delegation complained that certain measures which it had put forward in the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee had not been accepted by Western delegations. That complaint was repeated this morning by the representative of Czechoslovakia.

There is a reason why those measures have not been accepted. It is that they were so framed as to be to the advantage of the Soviet Union and its allies and to the disadvantage of the Western alliance. They thus contravened one of the important principles which were agreed upon in 1961 for the conduct of disarmament negotiations. That principle is the one generally referred to as the principle of balance. I shall remind the Commission of what it says:

"All measures of general and complete disarmament should be balanced so that at no stage of the implementation of the treaty could any state or group of states gain military advantage and that security is ensured equally for all"  
(A/4879, Paragraph 5).