

TEN-POWER DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE

"For Canada participation in a working group on disarmament means an additional responsibility, but it is one which we accept readily. It was a logical development, because last September we were suggested by the foreign ministers of the United Kingdom, the United States, France and the Soviet Union, meeting at Geneva, as one of the members of a ten-power East-West negotiating group on disarmament. This Committee, you will recall, consists on the Western side of Canada, France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States, and on the Eastern side of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Roumania and the Soviet Union... On this ten-power group the main responsibility will rest for devising, negotiating and ultimately implementing a practical programme of controlled, phased disarmament....

"As you will see, the recent NATO decision to make the five Western members of that committee also a working group for preparations on disarmament questions for the East-West simply gave the group a dual function. It is, however, unlikely that anything more than directives or general guidance will come from the East-West summit on disarmament questions. The real work will take place in the ten-power group. The Canadian Government attaches great importance to the work of this Committee and for this reason such a distinguished Canadian public servant as Lieutenant-General E.L.M. Burns, until recently Commander of UNEF, has been appointed to represent Canada on the Committee....

NATURE OF NEGOTIATIONS

"The new negotiations...will take place against the background of important developments in the disarmament field at the recent session of the United Nations General Assembly. There both the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union advanced comprehensive disarmament proposals, the latter's including for the first time an apparent willingness to accept the principle of inspection and control. In addition a resolution was adopted unanimously which expressed the hope that measures leading towards the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control would be worked out in detail and agreed upon in the shortest possible time. Finally, they will take place in the improved atmosphere which, for want of a better phrase, is sometimes called the "Camp David spirit".

EAST-WEST SUMMIT MEETINGS

"...Canada welcomes the fact that there is to be not just one East-West summit meeting but a series, to take place in succession in the respective capitals of the participants. We have long favoured a series of summit meetings for a number of reasons: for example because complex questions of international

security could patently not be settled in one brief meeting; further, because there is intrinsic value in keeping alive the discussions between the great powers; and also because one all-or-nothing summit conference could easily raise false expectations in the public mind which would almost certainly be disappointed.

CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

"...It is in the United Nations that Canada enjoys one of its greatest opportunities to offer constructive leadership. I have been impressed by the respect we enjoy in that forum as a disinterested middle power. The reasons are not difficult to find; no one fears us because we are without territorial ambitions; no one harbours resentment towards us since we have never held sovereign control of an alien people; no one suspects us of coveting his national resources as we are known to have plenty of our own. We have made many friends by gaining a reputation for independent thought and objective judgment on issues that come before the United Nations.

"At the recent session of the General Assembly we tried very hard to give constructive leadership. The Canadian initiative which attracted the most attention was our proposal, eventually co-sponsored by ten other powers and unanimously endorsed by the Assembly membership, to encourage the world-wide collection and central collation of more accurate information on radiation. We took this initiative in the knowledge that even if nations agree to stop testing nuclear weapons, the problem of radiation will not vanish. It seems imperative that the substantial gaps which exist in our knowledge of this frightening phenomenon should be filled, and that research into the biological effects of radiation should be based upon the fullest and most reliable information possible. I was greatly heartened by the enthusiasm with which the Canadian people greeted this initiative and by the complete support it received in the United Nations....

"Towards United Nations efforts at peace-keeping and peace supervision, Canada continues to make a contribution in which, I think, we all can take pride. Our support for the United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East continues undiminished and I believe it is true to say that we have contributed more manpower to various United Nations observation groups--for example, in Palestine, Kashmir and Lebanon--than any other single nation....

COMMONWEALTH MEMBERSHIP

"Canada, of course, continues to play her full part in the Commonwealth of Nations. It is an association for which we have a deep sentimental attachment reinforced by the comradeship and common sacrifices made in two world wars.... But, of course, there is far more to this unique fraternity than mere

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