

policy, is essential if we are to move now towards disarmament. It is foolish to tarry with the argument as to whether disarmament must precede or follow the reduction of political conflicts and tensions. The fact is that we must move simultaneously along both lines.

Despite an unpromising situation at the conclusion of the twelfth session, the course of events in 1958 has been such as to encourage those governments which, like mine, hope to find greater security through an agreed programme of disarmament. The regular processes of negotiation within the United Nations were unfortunately disrupted by the refusal of the Soviet Union to participate in the work of the Disarmament Commission. We deplored that Soviet decision last year and we did so with a deeper conviction by reason of the efforts which we had made, in co-operation with other delegations, to reconstitute the Commission in a way which would warrant the approval of the vast majority of the members of the United Nations. We continue to regret that decision, not only because it has meant that no negotiations within the United Nations have taken place, but also because it was an additional illustration of the slight regard in which the Soviet Union holds the resolutions of the General Assembly. It is the hope of the Canadian Delegation that when our discussions at this session have come to an end the Soviet Union will have adopted a less intransigent position.

Notwithstanding these procedural difficulties, there have been concrete negotiations through other channels. We all take satisfaction from the fact that agreed conclusions were reached at the conference of experts who met in Geneva during July and August of this year to study the possibility of detecting violations of a possible agreement on the suspension of nuclear tests. We, in Canada, were pleased to be able to make some contribution to those discussions. And we have welcomed the statements of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union that negotiations would begin on October 31 by their representatives on the suspension of nuclear weapons tests and the actual establishment of a control system on the basis of the unanimous report of the experts.

We look forward to an agreement among the three powers which have conducted nuclear tests. An agreement which would call for the implementation of a system along the lines which the experts have concluded to be feasible would directly affect many countries. Control posts would be located on the territories of a substantial number of states in addition to the three negotiating powers. Moreover, there are questions relating to the staffing of such posts and to the availability of the information recorded by the instruments at those posts. While agreement on the terms of a suspension of tests would be of direct interest only to those states which manufacture nuclear weapons, the interests no less direct of many states are involved in aspects of the control system. We would expect that,