

United Nations Disarmament Commission

THE United Nations Disarmament Commission met between July 3 and 16 to consider the report of its Sub-Committee on the discussions held in London between March 19 and May 4. Canada was represented by Mr. Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare and the then Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs.

At the opening meeting Mr. Anthony Nutting introduced in the name of Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States a joint draft resolution which reaffirmed the six basic principles enunciated in a declaration at the close of the Sub-Committee session. Those principles were:

- (1) The disarmament programme should proceed by stages. Progress from one stage to another must depend upon the satisfactory execution of the preceding stage and upon the development of confidence through the settlement of major political problems.
- (2) The programme should begin, under effective international control, with significant reductions in armed forces to such levels as are feasible in present unsettled world conditions. There should be corresponding reductions in conventional armaments and in military expenditures. Further reductions would be carried out as world conditions improved.
- (3) The programme should provide that, at an appropriate stage and under proper safeguards, the build-up of stockpiles of nuclear weapons would be stopped and all future production of nuclear material devoted to peaceful uses.
- (4) The programme should provide for a strong control organization with inspection rights, including aerial reconnaissance, operating from the outset and developing in parallel with the disarmament measures. The control measures should also provide against major surprise attack. This is particularly important so long as it is impossible to account for past production of nuclear material.
- (5) Preliminary demonstrations of inspection methods on a limited scale would help to develop an effective control system and could bring nearer agreement on a disarmament programme.
- (6) Provision should be made for the suspension of the programme, in whole or in part, if a major state failed to carry out its obligations or if a threat to peace under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter should occur.

Mr. Gromyko then introduced for the Soviet Union a "Draft declaration of States regarding measures on strengthening universal peace and the security of peoples". The declaration noted with satisfaction "the substantial relaxations of international tension" which have recently taken place. It declared that the