

of most other nations, welcomed the test-ban treaty two years ago and have followed developments in this field with great interest.

Although endowed with the technical and industrial capacity to manufacture nuclear weapons, Canada has, as you know, consistently refused to embark on such a programme. We have, from the outset, opposed nuclear tests and have continuously supported efforts for their prohibition subject to effective arrangements for verification.

The 1963 Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, prohibiting tests in outer space, in the atmosphere and under water, was a significant step towards the reduction of international tension and the elimination of the hazards of radio-active contamination.

The present objective is to extend this treaty to prohibit underground testing of nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, no agreement has yet been reached on effective means of verification without "on-site" inspections, which the U.S.S.R. refuses to accept.

Considerable progress has been made in improving equipment and techniques for distinguishing between earthquakes and underground nuclear explosions by seismic methods. Canada has the technical knowledge and equipment to play a leading part in this development, and is well placed geographically to make important contributions to these developments. As I stated in the United Nations General Assembly, the Canadian Government is willing to join other nations in international efforts to help to achieve a comprehensive treaty that will extend the existing test-ban treaty to cover underground nuclear weapons tests.

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Although measures to ensure non-dissemination of nuclear weapons, and to extend the test ban, offer the most immediate hope of progress, the Government's ultimate objective in the field of disarmament is the negotiation of an international treaty providing a phased programme leading to general and complete disarmament.

In order to make the most rapid possible progress towards this goal, discussions should be conducted in accordance with the following three principles, which have been generally accepted as a basis for serious disarmament negotiations.

(1) Disarmament should proceed by stages under control of an international organization established for this purpose.

(2) At every stage, steps towards disarmament should be introduced in such a way as to maintain the existing military balance and not give advantages to one side or the other.

(3) Every subsequent stage of disarmament should be verifiable to ensure that agreed measures are in fact implemented. Only thus can the necessary confidence be established to ensure progress towards the ultimate objective.

In acting upon these principles, we should ensure that anxiety about national security and suspicion of intentions and motives of governments resulting from the present arms race would diminish and, with these, much of the tension and hostility that hinders fruitful co-operation between nations. We should also

be able to make available a substantial portion of the vast sums now expended on armaments for peaceful and constructive purposes, such as the extension of domestic economic and social security programmes and for assistance to less developed countries.

WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

You will have read reports recently about plans for a world disarmament conference and will want to know how the Canadian Government views this project in the light of the fundamental objectives I have been discussing.

In the United Nations Disarmament Commission earlier this year, Canada voted with 88 other countries in favour of a resolution recommending urgent consideration by the current session of the United Nations General Assembly to the holding of a world disarmament conference. I wish to reaffirm that the Canadian Government accepts in principle the idea of a world disarmament conference.

If preceded by careful and thorough preparation, and conducted in accordance with the agreed principles established to guide disarmament negotiations, it may well be able to provide a further impetus to progress towards disarmament. We in Canada share the view expressed by the Secretary-General that progress in disarmament will hardly be possible so long as one of the major military powers is not participating, and we hope that if such a conference takes place, Communist China would take part in these discussions.

We consider it important, however, that progress already achieved in past negotiations should not be lightly cast aside, and hold the view that negotiations on specific disarmament issues can be more fruitfully pursued in the more specialized Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee, which has already acquired considerable competence in this field.

We consider it important that this Eighteen-Nation Committee should continue to serve as the principal negotiating body for disarmament questions.

CATTLE MISSION FROM FRANCE

Seventeen leading French breeders of Holstein-Friesian cattle arrived in Canada recently on a trade mission that could result in important sales of Canadian Holstein-Friesians to France.

In May 1964, the Department of Trade and Commerce brought from France authorities on dairy cattle to study the Canadian breed of Holstein-Friesian. Later negotiations with the Departments of Trade and Commerce and Agriculture and the Canadian Holstein-Friesian Association, and personal visits to France by the Minister of Agriculture, resulted in approval by the French Government of the import of the breed from Canada. Shortly afterwards, a touring exhibition of 20 Holstein-Friesians was organized by the two departments to give breeders in France the opportunity to inspect the Canadian cattle.

Because of the interest shown by the French breeders, the Department of Trade and Commerce, with the co-operation of the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada and the Canada Department of Agriculture, organized the current buying mission.