

significance and effect of the proposals. The Canadian Delegation must reserve its final views until more is known about what is involved, but we consider that the Soviet Union's proposals may help to remove the block to negotiations which had been created by the opposed positions of the two sides on this question.

Peaceful Settlement Procedures

With regard to the third category (questions not yet sufficiently explored) the 18-Nation Committee can, for example, make a valuable contribution in the field of peace keeping. Both the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics have in their draft treaties recognized the importance of improving the means of keeping the peace, and both draft treaties contain provisions in regard to it.

The joint statement of agreed principles stipulates that disarmament must be accompanied by the establishment of reliable procedures for the peaceful settlement of disputes and by effective arrangements for the maintenance of peace in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

For all the reasons which I have given, the Canadian Delegation considers it to be of the highest importance for the 18-Nation Committee to resume its work at once and to make the greatest possible effort to achieve progress in the tasks before it.

The very thorough and well-thought-out statements which were made by many members of this Committee on the item whose consideration has just been concluded -- the item on nuclear testing -- have, we think, made it quite clear that the achievement of an end to nuclear testing by means of a well-guaranteed agreement which is satisfactory to all the nuclear powers and which will be observed by them is the first task to be accomplished in the field of disarmament; it is the most important task, for without its accomplishment, we cannot expect any real progress towards general disarmament. We think, therefore, as I have just stated, that it is of the highest importance that the 18-Nation Committee should return to its work in a suitable forum, where it can proceed with dispatch to concentrate on this subject and to reach agreement, as called for in the resolution adopted a few days ago by the General Assembly. We think that the progress which has been achieved in that matter has been largely due to the presence and efforts of the eight non-aligned countries which are participating in the work of the 18-Nation Disarmament Committee.

That is why we lay stress on the Committee of the Whole of the 18-Nation Committee. In the same manner as it achieved the progress which has been reached up to the present, we hope that it will be possible by the date set down in this resolution, which we have passed with a large majority, to report back substantial progress by 10 December. We think it is essential that we lose no time in reassembling and commencing our work.