

It was recognition of a community of interests which made possible earlier this month the signature of an agreement to ban nuclear testing in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water. This agreement not only removes a serious source of radioactive contamination of the atmosphere and the seas, which constitutes such a hazard to human health and future generations, but is a most important step on the long road away from war. Moreover, this first step has been taken without any sacrifice of principle. It has required no retreat in our stand on the need for "on-site" inspection, since the treaty deals only with the three environments in which adequate verification can be obtained by other means, and the mechanics of its signature have been so arranged as not to alter the relations between states which do not recognize each other.

Limitations of the Treaty

We in Canada have no illusions about the extent of this first step in itself for we recognize the limitations from which it suffers. It is not a comprehensive test ban, since underground testing is still not prohibited, and it is not a disarmament measure, since it will not in any way reduce the levels of armaments now held. What the treaty does do, however, is help to create an improved climate of confidence in which the total prohibition of testing may, it is to be hoped, become negotiable. Even though it is not a disarmament measure, it should have the effect of restricting both the quality and quantity of nuclear weapons which can henceforth be produced, and thus may help to bring about a levelling-off in the arms race which might make real measures of disarmament more readily negotiable. But above all it demonstrates that, where a community of interests can be uncovered through patient exploration, agreement beneficial to all can be achieved. Herein lies the true significance of the agreement signed in Moscow on August 5 and since adhered to by about one-half of the nations of the world - and more can be expected to follow suit. It may well be that scholars, from the perspectives of history, will say of this treaty: "Here is where the nations of the world made a crucial turn, away from war, toward recognizing the interests of all humanity."

It is, of course, a matter of profound regret that this treaty has not been signed by the largest nation in the world, Communist China, a nation of some 700 million people, which is expanding annually at a rate roughly equal to the population of Canada. I repeat that we must begin to formulate realistic and far-sighted policies for dealing with this Asian giant.

I do not at all regard as in the same category the decision of our great friend and ally, France, to withhold its signature from this treaty, for her motives are entirely different. France threatens no one, and in the very act of announcing his country's decision to stand aside from the test-ban treaty, President de Gaulle solemnly reaffirmed that "there never will be a French aggression". France's failure to sign may have occasioned some disappointment, but nowhere could it have occasioned fear. Given certain conditions