

It is well for all of us to realize then the solemnity of this obligation when we complain or castigate. This is not to say that other powers should refrain from criticism or suggestion. We certainly have not in the past refrained from doing so, on many occasions and we intend to continue criticizing when we think it is justified and making suggestions when we think they might be useful. We trust that during this session all members will have a free opportunity to express their views on a subject which is of as much concern to them as to the major powers. However, we hope, that these contributions will be as constructive as possible and will bear directly on the dilemmas which I believe the great powers are striving with determination and imagination to solve.

I realize that all of us in this Assembly are fully aware of the difficulties to be surmounted in reaching a general agreement on major reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments and the prohibition of atomic weapons. The reductions and prohibitions must be so co-ordinated and scheduled that no nation, at any stage in the process, will have genuine cause to fear that its security is endangered. In the course of our Sub-Committee meetings progress has been made towards an agreed position on this most important question of the timetable or schedule of reductions.

However, the whole question of an effective arrangement to guarantee the fulfilment of any undertaking to prohibit atomic weapons must now be considered in the light of the fact, admitted by all concerned, that secret evasion of any agreement for total prohibition of atomic weapons would in the light of present knowledge be possible, however stringent the control and inspection might be. It was partly in order to meet the difficulties on this key problem of control and inspection that a number of new proposals were advanced at the Geneva meeting.

Premier Faure of France suggested a plan involving budgetary checks on reduction in defence expenditure and the use of savings resulting from disarmament for assistance to under-developed countries. Prime Minister Eden of the United Kingdom, with his great experience in international matters, suggested a preliminary pilot project which would give us useful practical experience in the mechanism of inspection and control. Premier Bulganin of the U.S.S.R. put forward a plan in almost the same terms as a proposal made by the Soviet delegation in the Sub-Committee. This Soviet plan incorporates some important advances on the question of control, although in the view of my Government the Soviet provisions for inspection and control are still inadequate.

Finally, at Geneva, President Eisenhower suggested a step, which might be taken immediately, a step taken to eliminate the possibility of a major surprise attack and to prepare the way for a general disarmament program. Such an agreement would certainly be more easily attainable if we could first remove the overhanging threat of surprise attack. My Government has expressed its great interest in this plan; a plan put forward by the President of the United States for the exchange of military blueprints and for mutual aerial inspection. To us that plan is a gesture of faith and imagination typical of a great man and of his country. We in Canada know the Americans well and, although we often disagree with them, it never occurs to any of us to doubt the fundamental goodness and sincerity of their intentions. And so we were particularly happy to hear Mr. Molotov's tribute to President Eisenhower and we assure Mr. Molotov, as people who know, that his confidence in the sincerity of this American proposal is not mistaken.