

While difficult problems remain to be resolved, it is encouraging to note that to date a total of 17 articles have been approved for a draft treaty on the discontinuance of nuclear tests. We are confident that with continued good will on both sides the conference will result in a workable agreement. Such agreement could hardly fail to give impetus to the renewal of negotiations on other aspects of disarmament.

In order to facilitate such other negotiations it would be desirable to reactivate the former subcommittee of the disarmament commission of which Canada was a member, or to provide in some other manner acceptable to the powers principally involved for a group of manageable size within the present 82-member disarmament commission. Hon. members will, of course, realize the difficulties involved in reaching any agreement in a commission composed of 82 members. I venture to express the hope that when the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the four powers reconvenes next week it may give some consideration to the question of negotiating machinery within the United Nations.

And now a word about outer space. During May and June the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held a useful session. The Committee was created at the last session of the General Assembly in recognition, as the Assembly resolution phrased it, of "the common interest of mankind in outer space", and "the common aim that outer space should be used for peaceful purposes only".

Canada was one of 18 members elected to the Committee. Unfortunately the Soviet Union, in order to demonstrate its disapproval of the composition of the Committee, has refused to participate. In this policy it has been followed by Czechoslovakia and Poland. India and the United Arab Republic have also felt unable to attend the sessions of the Committee. The Canadian Representative expressed this country's hope that at some time in the not too distant future all these countries would feel able to co-operate. The Committee nevertheless proceeded with detailed studies in accordance with its terms of reference. Technical and legal committees were formed to draft components of the report eventually to be made to the General Assembly and, as hon. members are no doubt aware, Canada provided the chairman of the Technical Committee, Dr. Donald Rose of the National Research Council. The final report of the Committee was approved on June 25. In addition to a number of conclusions relating to specific matters, it suggests that the United Nations might establish a committee suitably composed to carry further the investigations which have been begun. I trust that the General Assembly will agree that such action is appropriate and that in the future Soviet co-operation will be forthcoming.