

This recital of differences emphasizes the unsatisfactory state negotiations had reached when the time came to recess for the summit talks. Briefly, each side had completed the process of explaining its own proposals and rejecting those of the other side. The main arguments had been used over and over again. In the last few days before the recess, attempts were made to reach agreement on a statement of principles of disarmament, which presumably would have represented the completion of the initial stage of negotiations and have permitted the negotiators to proceed to the next stage and come to grips with specific measures. It was the Canadian view that one of the results of the summit conference should have been a directive or recommendation to the Ten-Nation Committee to dispose of the argument over principles and begin negotiations on specific measures.

Regaining Momentum

On his return from the NATO Ministerial meetings in Istanbul, the Secretary of State for External Affairs indicated to the House of Commons on May 9 a number of ways in which the momentum of the negotiations might be regained. He suggested that the progress made to date by the Disarmament Committee had not been very satisfactory, and said that the Canadian Government was anxious that there should be a great deal more accomplished when the Committee resumed its sittings early in June. He continued:

“At this first meeting I urged upon the other four Western foreign ministers that everything possible must be done to get these negotiations moving; that it was very important to demonstrate to the five Eastern nations on this ten-member Committee and also to all other nations of the world that the West is very serious in its attempt to bring about a disarmament agreement.

Specific Measures

“We made several suggestions which perhaps would be of interest to the House. One was that the summit meeting should give direction to the ten-member Committee, that instead of discussing further the general issues they should commence to discuss specific measures of disarmament. Mind you, that would mean that these directions would come from President Eisenhower, Prime Minister Macmillan, President de Gaulle and Premier Khrushchov. We had in mind a joint declaration or recommendation, whatever you wish to call it, should be made to the disarmament negotiators.

“Also we suggested that an attempt might very well be made to work out package deals, that is, take one measure of disarmament in which the West was interested and one of equivalent importance in which the East was interested and try to make a package deal with regard to these two particular aspects of disarmament. For example, the West might offer to negotiate a controlled limitation on force levels and related conventional armaments if the U.S.S.R. side would agree to negotiate on the nuclear disarmament measures in stages one and two of the Western plan.