

REPORT ON A NEW ERA IN WORLD AFFAIRS

(Continued from P. 2)

nuclear powers. If there is a nuclear war we are in for it. Our cities will be destroyed. On the Saturday night after the Cuban crisis arose I believed, and I have no doubt many other people did, that before morning Ottawa might be demolished, as well as Montreal, Toronto and my home city of Vancouver. Canada has another good reason to be interested in questions having to do with disarmament, for we are in a heavy fallout area. This nation is in one of the worst fallout areas in the world, the temperate zone. It is admitted that Canada is in one of the worst areas. Fallout may affect not only us but the very food we grow, and no one knows yet what the end result will be of the nuclear tests which have already taken place, because a lot of the fallout is not yet down. Questions were asked just today about Strontium 90 in the food Eskimos in Northern Canada are eating.

CANADA'S ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION

"The Government believes that Canada can do something worthwhile on the question of disarmament. One reason is because we were chosen by our Western colleagues in NATO as one of the NATO negotiators on the 10-Nation Committee set up in September of 1959.... Five NATO countries - Great Britain, the United States, France, Italy and Canada - and five Communist countries - the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Roumania - formed the Committee.

"Then there is the question of our position vis-à-vis Great Britain and the United States. Our relationships with these two countries are such that we can talk to them on this or any other issue on a more intimate basis than any other country in the world. Another reason we believe that Canada can do something worthwhile is that we happen to have the confidence of practically all the unaligned countries in the world. I do not believe there is a country of the NATO group or of the Warsaw Pact group that has nearly as many friends among the unaligned countries as Canada has, and that is because these nations have confidence in us.

"Another reason we believe that Canada can do something on this question is that we have as our chief disarmament negotiator Lieutenant-General E.L.M. Burns, a distinguished Canadian with a splendid record in both wars, a record as head of the United Nations Emergency Force, a splendid record in the Civil Service, a man who in my judgment is the best-qualified man in the world today on the question of disarmament. He certainly has the respect of the delegates of every one of the 16 nations participating in the present disarmament negotiations, including the Communist countries.

"The 10-Nation Committee was set up in September of 1959 by the four Western foreign ministers, not by the United Nations. The Committee tried to work out some agreement but on June 27, 1960, all the Communist delegates got up and walked out. The chairman at the time happened to be from one of the Communist countries and he refused to hear any

Western delegates. He heard the delegates from the other four Communist countries; then the delegates from the five countries picked up their brief-cases and out they went. That was not a very promising development from the point of view of anyone interested in the field of disarmament.

A PRETTY GOOD MEETING

"However, the Americans worked with us on this issue in a spirit of splendid co-operation and we managed to get a meeting of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. The Communists said they were not going to attend and were going to boycott the meeting and they boycotted it right up to the time we were about to meet in New York. But when India and all the other unaligned countries made it perfectly clear that they were going to be there anyway, in came the Communist delegates at the last minute, and we had a pretty good meeting of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. This was not a meeting of the United Nations, although the nations were the same, but a meeting of the Commission and, by the way, it has not met since.

"A resolution was approved unanimously urging the resumption of disarmament negotiations at once. The Russians voted for it too. But then nothing happened. However, it was an expression of world opinion. At the meeting of this Commission, we demanded that negotiations be resumed, and we urged that representatives of the unaligned countries be added to the negotiators. There was no use sending back the five Warsaw Pact countries and the five NATO countries, because they would clash in the first 15 minutes and that would be it. So Canada urged that representatives of the unaligned countries be added.

"The General Assembly of the United Nations met a few weeks after that, in the fall of 1960.... We stressed the need to resume negotiations from the start to the finish of that session. We insisted that the disarmament negotiations had to be resumed....

"At the same time, starting really in 1959, we had been bringing in resolutions about radiation with the idea of focusing world opinion on the menace of these nuclear-weapons tests. We have been getting these resolutions carried with more support every year. This year we did not have nearly as much trouble, I will tell you, as we did in 1959. In 1961 the Soviet Union, if you please, resumed tests. They had been negotiating the question with the United States and Britain for nearly three years. During all that time there had been a voluntary moratorium. Then, in September 1961, out they come and start tests. Obviously they had been making preparations for several months.

"When the United Nations General Assembly met in 1961 the Soviet Union was in the middle of these tests. Perhaps you will recall that they were going to set off a 100-megaton bomb and Canada and the Scandinavian countries - Canada nearly always works with them in the United Nations - took the lead in bringing in a resolution urging Premier Khrushchov not to set off that bomb. There again we had a lot of trouble, because some nations said what is the use? In the meantime, he set off a bomb, and