

Conference - both past and future - in helping to reach agreements among the major powers. In the case of the accords on the partial test-ban and the direct communications link, it is significant that proposals on these subjects similar to the agreements adopted has been considered in the Eighteen-Nation Committee well in advance of time when the agreements were reached. The same is true with regard to prohibition of orbiting weapons of mass destruction in outer space, which appeared as an item on the Conference's list of collateral measures. This shows, in our view, the special value of the Eighteen-Nation Committee as a forum in which the two main sides, and all the other participants as well, can submit their ideas, allow them to be considered, studied and developed so as to provide a basis for agreement when the time becomes ripe for an accord to be adopted. The reaction of the members of the Eighteen-Nation Conference has also been of assistance to the major powers in developing their proposals for a total disarmament programme. The constructive contributions of the eight non-aligned countries greatly facilitated these achievements.

Even though final accords may be reached outside the confines of the Eighteen-Nation Committee, as in the case of the partial test-ban treaty and the agreement on orbiting weapons, that is no reflection on the work or worth of the Committee, for it is the end result which counts, not the forum in which that result is reached, and it is only to be expected that in nuclear matters it is the nuclear powers who must finally agree.

The Eighteen-Nation Committee will be reconvening in circumstances which can make its work fruitful far beyond the general expectation of only some months ago. All of us at this session of the United Nations have been struck by the atmosphere of harmony and cooperation that has characterized our discussions so far in the nuclear tests and disarmament field. All of us have been struck also by relative harmony which is reported to have prevailed during the talks here of the Foreign Ministers of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union. This new spirit presents the Geneva Conference with a unique opportunity to find new areas of agreement on