

*External Affairs*

But unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, in the years that followed, world powers recovered their faith in the possibility of disarmament with the result described by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, as recorded on page 932 of *Hansard* for February 10, 1960, and I quote:

Something happened which had never happened at the United Nations before, I believe, when all 82 nations co-sponsored the resolution which provided United Nations facilities for the meetings of the 10-power committee. That resolution contained these words:

The question of general and complete disarmament is the most important one facing the world today.

Here is an extraordinary and unprecedented fact, which certainly should kindle hope in the hearts of people haunted by the spectre of a monstrous war that could destroy civilization as we know it, and we must place our hopes in the U.N., which ever since its inception, has never stopped discussing disarmament. During the fourteenth session of the United Nations, representatives of about 25 countries spoke with great sincerity on disarmament. However, we must not fool ourselves; the road to complete disarmament will be a long and strenuous one.

In this day and age, every great power is in possession of what used to be known as the "secret of nuclear weapons". Each one of them knows full well that an attack against any nation would finally result in conquest not of territory or of material goods, but in a conquest of devastation, disaster and catastrophe, not only within the country under attack, but also inside the aggressor country. Indeed, forces are apparently so well distributed around the globe that aggression no matter where it came from would be followed by immediate retaliation.

We must therefore assume that, despite the good or bad faith of those who will discuss the matter, disarmament will not be a question of sentiment but the result of sound logic and plain and simple reasoning.

Besides, Mr. Speaker, it is futile to imagine that nations will be able to achieve full disarmament spontaneously. It will have to be done progressively and, once more, the Secretary of State for External Affairs has shown his practical common sense by stating as follows our general objective. I quote from page 933 of *Hansard*:

To achieve a maximum of disarmament and reduction of military forces which could be verified

and controlled and which is compatible with the maintenance of adequate security against aggression.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that all members of parliament agree with this idea that we all hope the ten power committee will soon obtain concrete results based on this formula.

But this gradual reduction of armaments raises many other vital problems. One of these problems the ten power committee will certainly have to deal with is the huge benefits that the various nations will necessarily derive from the great amounts of money that will be saved as disarmament progresses.

It is not an easy question to deal with, and one that must be discussed with great caution. However, it is logical to believe that the most favoured countries will want to use a large part of this capital to help what we call the underdeveloped countries. It is logical also to believe that the population of each of these countries will legitimately ask substantial amounts that will be used for social works of great usefulness, projects which, up to that time, would have been sacrificed because of the necessity of protection against outside attacks.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, we do not know when that money will be available. That possibility will depend on the rate of progress achieved at the Geneva conference and, as was indicated by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the task undertaken in Geneva could be long and difficult.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, we should bear in mind that disarmament will require the setting up of a control organization to make sure that the agreements and conventions entered into in this respect by the various countries will be respected.

Certain measures will also be necessary to increase, as much as possible, the prestige and authority of the United Nations Organization which will seek to safeguard peace. For peace will not come automatically in a disarmed world. One can therefore easily imagine that this control organization, and the United Nations task, will be important, intricate and very expensive, and that is what prompts those remarks, Mr. Speaker.

There is an idea that I wish to emphasize especially. It has to do with the financial assistance that privileged countries must keep giving to underdeveloped countries. Indeed,