

nuclear weapons race will go on, and more destructive weapons will be invented. The whole disarmament issue will be dormant for that time, just as it has been dormant since June 27. I think perhaps some of the other nations do not feel the urgency about disarmament that we do. They hang back, therefore, waiting for the nuclear powers to make a move. In any event, it is difficult to get action in the United Nations. However, I would hope members of the House will not be impatient. As I have said, our resolutions will be up again in March...

Canada has been doing the best she can to get some action on this question of disarmament and I assure you... we shall continue to do that.

In the voting on the three resolutions mentioned above, the Canadian Delegation supported the proposal sponsored by Ireland and four other states that called for a permanent international agreement to prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons, and for "temporary and voluntary" measures directed towards this end pending the achievement of permanent agreement. This resolution was adopted at a plenary session of the General Assembly on December 20 by the vote of 68 in favour, none against, with 26 abstentions (five delegations were absent).

In explaining this vote in the First Committee, the Canadian Representative, Mr. Wallace Nesbitt, stated that Canada firmly supported efforts to reach agreement on a comprehensive system of disarmament that would deal effectively with the problem of nuclear weapons. The Canadian Delegation had therefore been happy to see the emphasis placed in this resolution on the necessity of achieving permanent agreement. The Delegation had also supported the temporary measures provided for in the resolution because, although they were less satisfactory, Canada wished to do everything possible to limit the spread of these weapons. Nonetheless, he concluded:

...if no steps are taken toward disarmament—if, indeed, we do not have even a beginning to serious negotiations on this subject—no country will be content to sit by in the hope that goodwill alone will prevent the widespread dissemination of the weapons. For our part, I must say quite clearly that Canada would not be able to accept this state of affairs for very long. We have worked and we will continue to work with every resource at our command to achieve an agreement on disarmament which would include provisions to deal with the frightening problem of nuclear weapons. If, however, there is no significant progress in this field in the immediate future, we will reconsider our position on the temporary measures which are proposed in this resolution.

In accordance with the Government's continuing support for an agreement on the cessation of nuclear tests and the prohibition of further testing while negotiations were in progress, the Canadian Delegation also voted in favour of both resolutions submitted on this subject. For purposes of voting at the plenary session of the General Assembly on December 20 the two proposals were brought together as parts A and B of one resolution. Part A, which was directed exclusively to the states conducting the negotiations in Geneva, was adopted by a vote of 89 in favour and none against, with 4 abstentions. Part B, which was somewhat wider in its application, was adopted by a vote of 83 in favour and none against, with 11 abstentions.