



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 58/17 CANADIAN STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION

Text of a statement made in the Security Council April 29, 1958, by Mr. Charles Ritchie, Canada's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, on the United States proposal for a system of inspection in northern areas.

Slightly more than a week ago...I referred to the world-wide anxiety about the possibility of an outbreak of nuclear warfare...The Canadian Delegation sought to emphasize the grave concern with which peoples everywhere viewed the prospect that through some accidental spark the highly explosive tinder of today's armed preparedness might be fired. Thus each advance in the science of rockets and nuclear energy is looked upon not only as a great step forward into the future but alternatively as a step toward the destruction of mankind, because of the great potential for war involved.

Of course, the fear and anxiety derive not from the scientific developments themselves but from the doubt and suspicion which characterize the relations between the states mainly concerned. This condition of suspicion and fear, this wariness about the intentions of the opposite side, this lack of confidence in international dealings has led the world along the path of armed preparedness.

Moreover, as was amply explained at our last meeting, as long as the nations of the West consider that their security is threatened, they will insist that defence preparations continue and improve in accordance with scientific discovery. I have no doubt that this attitude finds corresponding expression on the Soviet side.

During the past few years, however, there has been some sifting of this problem through international study in the General Assembly, in the Disarmament Commission and its Sub-Committee, and elsewhere. We believe that this process has made it more possible for us to define a principal cause of doubt and anxiety in international relations.