



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN DISARMAMENT

Excerpts from an address by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, made to the Annual Convention of the Ontario Retail Pharmacists Association, Windsor, Ont., June 18, 1956.

. . . It will be recalled that during the past few years, United Nations efforts to achieve some measure of agreement on the reduction and control of armaments have been centred in the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission in the work of which I have had occasion to participate. This Sub-Committee, which is made up of the representatives of five countries -- the United States, the United Kingdom, France, the Soviet Union, and Canada-- has now held four series of private talks, the latest taking place in London earlier this spring. In all, no less than 86 individual meetings have been held. The forthcoming New York meeting of the Disarmament Commission itself is for the purpose of receiving and considering the report of the Sub-Committee's work.

While the results of these prolonged discussions have in some respects been disappointing, they have demonstrated that there is substantial agreement among the Western nations as to the provisions which should be included in any satisfactory disarmament scheme.

At the same time, they have provided evidence that the Soviet Union does not yet appear willing to accept measures which the Western nations consider essential to the successful implementation of even preliminary steps towards disarmament. In particular, I have in mind the Soviet Union's negative reaction to the proposal put forward by President Eisenhower providing for joint aerial inspection and the exchange of blueprints for military installations.

In the past ten days, the inadequacy of the Soviet Union's position on the matter of controls has been given added emphasis. In letters addressed to the Heads of Government of the