



Mr. BURNS (Canada): In my statement on the first item considered by this Committee on 19 October, I said the following:

"Canada has noted with great interest the recent efforts of Latin American and African countries to contribute to a solution of the problem of nuclear proliferation by examining the feasibility of establishing nuclear-free zones in their respective regions. We welcome these efforts. Canada holds the view that arrangements for nuclear-free zones can be useful in limiting the spread of nuclear weapons, provided they take account of certain principles."

I went on to mention some of the principles or desiderata which, it seems to the Canadian Government, should be taken into account in establishing nuclear-free zones in various parts of the world. I should emphasize that phrase: "in various parts of the world", because, when these three points were first put forward, we were thinking mainly in terms of the situation in Europe, where there are Canadian forces stationed and where, consequently, we are very much involved. In Latin America or in Africa Canada is not involved in the same way.

I shall not enter into a discussion of nuclear-free zones in Europe, because I understand the subject under discussion is the denuclearization of Africa.

During the debate on this first item considered by the Committee, our Vice-Chairman, speaking as the representative of Ecuador, commented on my statement and that portion of the statement which dealt with the principles we consider should be kept in mind when developing arrangements for nuclear-free zones. Our delegation agrees with the view which the representative of Ecuador expressed, and which is recorded on page 53 of document A/C.1/PV.1358, to the effect that, in applying the criteria I mentioned, we should distinguish between the proposals for nuclear-weapon-free zones in parts of the world where nuclear weapons are now employed and are part of the existing balance of military force, and the proposals for nuclear-weapon-free zones where nuclear weapons do not exist -- in regions such as Latin America and Africa.

At our 1366th meeting, the representative of Ghana also had a question in regard to the principles I mentioned, and he said: