

for the approval of the North Atlantic Council. Secondly, it was decided to set up a series of working groups within the NATO Council to assist the major powers in preparing their negotiating positions. Thus West Germany will be part of the working group on matters to do with Berlin and the re-unification of Germany; and Canada and Italy will similarly form part of the working group to prepare positions on disarmament. There is no reason why additional working groups cannot be constituted as necessary to deal with other topics at the East-West summit.

This means in a very real sense that NATO as a whole will have a sense of participation at the summit through the association of some of its members with the preparations for specific topics.

Membership in the Ten-power Disarmament Committee

For Canada, participation in a working group on disarmament means an additional responsibility, but it is one which we accept readily. It was a logical development, because last September we were suggested by the foreign ministers of the United Kingdom, the United States, France and the Soviet Union, meeting at Geneva, as one of the members of a ten-power East-West negotiating group on disarmament. This Committee, you will recall, consists on the Western side of Canada, France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States, and on the Eastern side of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Roumania and the Soviet Union. Although not a United Nations agency, its creation was favourably noted by the recent United Nations General Assembly and it is to keep in close touch with the United Nations. On this ten-power group the main responsibility will rest for devising, negotiating and ultimately implementing a practical programme of controlled, phased disarmament. In effect it carries the hope of all nations for world peace.

As you will see the recent NATO decision to make the five Western members of that committee also a working group for preparations on disarmament questions for the East-West simply gave the group a dual function. It is, however, unlikely that anything more than directives or general guidance will come from the East-West summit on disarmament questions. The real work will take place in the ten-power group. The Canadian Government attaches great importance to the work of this Committee and for this reason such a distinguished Canadian public servant as Lieutenant-General E.L.M. Burns, until recently Commander of UNEF, has been appointed to represent Canada on the Committee.

Steps were taken in the course of the recent Paris meetings to get the work of this ten-power committee under way. Taking advantage of their presence in Paris for the NATO meeting, the foreign ministers of the Western five met on December 20 to discuss preparatory arrangements. At that meeting we took two decisions: first, to get Western preparations under