

Secretary of State for External Affairs for Canada proposed in the 18-Nation Disarmament Committee that a declaration prohibiting such action should be adopted as a matter of priority. International agreement to this effect would be of great value in reducing the fear that the arms race might be extended to this environment. It would also be a first step toward a rule of law in outer space. Moreover, in our view, its adoption would implement and reinforce the two measures I have just mentioned. We welcome the statement by President Kennedy in his letter of 28 October to Chairman Khrushchov that "questions relating to the proliferation of nuclear weapons on earth and in outer space" should be given priority consideration along with related problems.

### **Nuclear-Free Zones**

Another vital question which should be discussed in the Collateral Measures Committee is the establishment of nuclear-free zones in various parts of the world. The importance of this question has been brought to the attention of this Committee by the draft resolution, sponsored by Bolivia, Brazil and Chile, to create a nuclear-free zone in Latin America. The Canadian Delegation believes that the creation of such a zone is primarily a matter for the countries in the region concerned to decide for themselves. But the form of such agreements and, what is very important, the means for verifying that their provisions are being observed could appropriately be considered in the 18-Nation Disarmament Committee as a measure collateral to disarmament.

If we are to profit from the lessons of the Cuban crisis, it is of the highest importance that the 18-Nation Committee resume its work at once and that every effort be made to achieve agreement immediately on the important questions to which I have just referred. The statements of President Kennedy, Chairman Khrushchov and Prime Minister Macmillan, about which I spoke earlier, give new grounds for hope that agreements can be reached in these vital areas.

Taken together, agreements preventing the dissemination of nuclear weapons and the placing of weapons of mass destruction in outer space and measures adopted to avoid the outbreak of war by accident would constitute a significant advance toward a safer and more stable world. International tensions would be immediately reduced, international security would at once be increased, and a notable step forward would be taken towards agreement on general and complete disarmament.

Finally, I should like to discuss briefly some of the questions concerning general and complete disarmament which the 18-Nation Committee had been considering before it recessed. Disarmament questions before the conference fall within three general categories: *first*, questions on which differences preventing final agreement are relatively small; *second*, areas in which significant differences still exist between the positions of the two sides; and *third*, questions which have not as yet been comprehensively explored in the Disarmament Committee.