

The ad hoc committee would seek to accomplish this by examining urgently ways and means of assisting the resumption of serious negotiations. As I have said, this is primarily a problem which the negotiating powers, and principally the nuclear powers, must solve for themselves.

It is quite obvious from the debate in the First Committee that there are sharp differences among those powers. It is our thought that the ad hoc committee might find a way to assist in resolving them.

Similarly, once the negotiations have restarted there could be many ways in which a committee of this kind could contribute to the success of the negotiations. This would depend in large part, however, on the progress achieved in relation to the initial task. The Disarmament Commission would have an opportunity to weigh the results when the ad hoc committee reported to it.

In the last analysis the exact role the ad hoc committee can play will depend on the energy and earnestness with which they tackle their tasks and on the co-operation they receive from the negotiating group. I myself am confident that the committee could make a useful contribution.

We do not expect miracles to be achieved by the proposed ad hoc committee. We believe mainly that it will serve to focus the attention of the United Nations on the future negotiations.

To underline the urgency of its initial work, assisting the resumption of negotiations, it is proposed that the ad hoc committee be set up at once and report back to the Disarmament Commission not later than April 1. This will afford time to explore the possibilities for renewed negotiations and perhaps to make suggestions for bringing them about. It is surely not too much to hope that the nuclear powers will even now be giving thought to the resumption of disarmament talks.

In any event, we are seeking to ensure that these matters are kept under close scrutiny by an appropriate United Nations body. My Delegation considers that this feature of our joint proposals merits the support of the vast majority of members of this Committee. The many expressions of anxiety and concern we have heard at this session have persuaded us that the non-nuclear powers are no longer content to sit by passively, as was the case from 1957 to 1959, while the nuclear powers allow disarmament issues to remain in deadlock, without any effort to resume negotiations.

I have touched upon the main features of the joint draft resolution now before the Committee. I believe that it is neither incompatible with, nor in competition with, any of the other proposals which have been made.

Our resolution is clearly complementary, for example, to the sincere efforts being made to resolve the important question of principles. It provides only that the ad hoc committee examine the record as regards