



CANADA

CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

October 30, 1963

Vol. 18 No. 44

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A TREND TOWARD DISARMAMENT AND PEACE

The following is a partial text of a statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, to the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on October 18:

...Canada has participated in the negotiations on disarmament since their beginning in the United Nations. It is a responsibility which, I can assure the Committee, we regard as of paramount importance.

For the first time since this item on the suspension of nuclear tests was inscribed, we meet in a brightening atmosphere. We have been encouraged by the signature of the partial nuclear test-ban treaty by the three great nuclear powers and by more than 100 other states.

Tribute must be paid, first, to the three nuclear powers who have concluded the first significant treaty restricting the development of armaments since World War II; second, to the non-aligned members of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Conference whose tireless efforts contributed greatly to this accord; and third, to all the other members of the United Nations which over the years have continually focussed international attention on the urgency and importance of ending all tests. We all have some reason to hope that the test-ban agreement of August 5 signifies, as the distinguished representative of Tunisia said in plenary session, "an irreversible trend towards disarmament and peace".

BREAK-THROUGH ASPECT OF BAN

For many years the major powers have talked about disarmament, but many countries, including our-

selves, have believed that these discussions would remain unrealistic so long as the nuclear powers were unable to take the first essential step of stopping the development of nuclear weapons. The limited test ban is therefore of particular significance. It provides reassurance to the world that fallout will not continue to endanger the health of this and future generations — that in itself is a gain of enormous human significance. It also shows that the major powers have taken a step towards ending the unrestricted development of even more destructive types of weapons. The object of disarmament is to reduce and then eliminate all major weapons, but it is important first to arrest completely the refinement of weapons which testing makes possible. This is why we regard the partial test ban as a "break-through", heralding, we hope, further steps towards restricting competition in new types of armaments.

We welcome, therefore, the determination of the nuclear powers, as expressed in the preamble to the limited test ban, to continue to seek agreement on stopping underground tests. Previous speakers in this Committee have quite rightly emphasized the importance of continued negotiations towards this end. The competition in and the development of new types of nuclear weapons cannot finally be ended until agreement on this matter is achieved.

We welcome the fact that other countries, great and small, now numbering over 100, and many with the potential to develop nuclear weapons, have signed the treaty, thereby signifying that they do not intend to develop nuclear weapons. The fact that several technically and economically advanced

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