

a few moments ago, we must assure the world outside NATO that no one need fear aggression from us; that far from regarding the forthcoming meeting as an end in itself, the whole world, including ourselves, regards it as a symbol of our determination to protect ourselves and, no less important, of our genuine and sustained interest in finding ultimate peaceful solutions to the issues that divide us from the communist world.

I have endeavoured to put before this House a diagram of Canada's relations with other nations. Nothing that I have said should obscure our intense resolution to reduce tensions between the West and the U.S.S.R. No sane person could run the risk of shutting any promising door on the possibility of co-existence. Yet — and this is not double talk — we should not fall into a propaganda plot; we should not be lulled into complacency by empty or hollow professions such as happened after the Geneva meeting. We must keep up our defences pending the arrival of the day for which we have hoped, the arrival of the day of substantial mutual trust between the West and the East. And I should add this: we must have convincing proof that the U.S.S.R. has abandoned its policies of domination. Co-existence cannot be used as a cover for subversion on the part of the U.S.S.R. in free countries. What I have been trying to say, Sir, is that we must keep our powder dry and put the hand out.

Statement on Disarmament

Among the speeches made in the external affairs debate in the House of Commons on November 26, 1957 was a statement on the disarmament question by Mr. W. A. Nesbitt, M.P., Parliamentary Assistant to the Prime Minister, and Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Delegation to the Twelfth Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Mr. Nesbitt spoke, in part, as follows:

This evening, Mr. Speaker, in entering this debate on the subject of external affairs, I propose to deal exclusively with the subject of disarmament, which is a matter of the greatest interest and importance not only to the people of Canada but to people all over the world. I would like to take this opportunity of dealing with this subject because I have, in the last eight weeks, had the honour and the opportunity of serving as Vice-Chairman of our delegation to the United Nations and of following the whole subject at first hand.

The disarmament negotiations of the Sub-Committee, which was held last summer in London, came to an abrupt end at the beginning of September after the Soviet representative, Mr. Zorin, had rejected the proposals for partial measures of disarmament submitted by the four western powers in a working paper on August 29. This abrupt termination of the Sub-Committee's work was clearly a matter of great concern to many countries when the General Assembly of the United Nations opened last September 17. The opening statements of all the great powers in the Assembly reflected this concern. Speaking for Canada on September 23, the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) expressed the hope that the current session of the United Nations Assembly might be known in future years as the disarmament assembly. These words were quoted with warmth by a number of successive speakers and I think the general tenor of the debate opened with fairly high hopes.

In general the debate concentrated upon the resolution of October 11, introduced by 24 of the major powers. Much of this resolution was based on the Western proposals in the Sub-Committee on August 29 . . .

This afternoon the hon. member of Fort William (Mr. McIvor) made a request of the Secretary of State for External Affairs asking that he deal with those proposals in detail and this evening I think I might outline the proposals of the 24-power resolution . . . This resolution was based upon six points which are as follows:

- 1—The immediate suspension of nuclear testing in conjunction with an adequate control system to ensure that this was carried out.
- 2—The so-called "cut-off" or the cessation of the production of fissionable materials for weapons purposes.
- 3—The reduction of stocks of nuclear weapons.