

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 re-started 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 which the ad hoc committee can play will depend on the energy and earnestness with which they tackle their tasks and on the co-operation which 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 should be set up at once and should 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