

resolutions whose aim was to put an end to the possibility of nuclear weapons of mass destruction being used in time of war. We agree with their sentiments and respect their concern that the peoples of the world should not be subject to the death and destruction which the use of such weapons would cause. This is an aim which all Canadians profoundly share. While agreeing that the question is important, we have differed from supporters of these resolutions, not on the goal to be attained, but rather on the best and most effective means to be used in achieving that goal.

The USSR states that the adoption of a clear decision by the General Assembly in favour of a convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons will serve peace and relax international tension. For our part, we seriously question the value of such a convention. The Canadian delegation certainly favours the cause of peace and the relaxation of international tension and nuclear arms control. We do not believe, however, that a declaratory prohibition against the use of nuclear weapons is the most effective way of securing world peace. Such an agreement, if accepted, would leave untouched the present large stocks of nuclear weapons maintained by the military nuclear powers and would not represent a step towards the reduction or elimination of nuclear weapons or towards disarmament. On various occasions in the past Soviet representatives have rejected Western proposals on the grounds that they did not constitute progress towards disarmament. But history shows that a declaratory measure such as the Kellogg-Briand Pact was conspicuously unsuccessful in preventing war. In the long term, peace and security are more surely secured through agreements on nuclear arms control such as the partial test ban treaty and the outer space treaty which can be effectively verified by the parties to them. An essential feature of all such measures is the willing support of the two most powerful nuclear countries in the world today--the USA and the USSR.

Over the years the Canadian Government has sought to strengthen peace and to diminish international tension by specific and practical measures rather than through declarations. For instance, we believe that increasing reliance should be placed on international forces coupled with disarmament, rather than upon national armed forces which tend to place increasing economic burdens on those who have to contribute to them as well as to increase international tensions. It is for this reason that Canada has stressed the importance of United Nations activities in the field of peacekeeping as witnessed in Canadian contributions in the Congo, the Middle East and Cyprus. It is also for this reason that Canada, through active participation in disarmament negotiations, has been helping to find a way out of the vicious circle of the arms race.