

# Disarmament Negotiations

GENEVA, JULY 27 TO SEPTEMBER 16, 1965

AFTER a delay associated, among other things, with the inability of the nineteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly to debate substantial issues, including disarmament, the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee (ENDC)<sup>1</sup> resumed its meetings in Geneva on July 27, 1965. In the interval, in the spring of 1965,<sup>2</sup> the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) had held a useful session in New York.

On resumption, the ENDC had before it — in addition to the various proposals on general and complete disarmament and partial (or collateral) measures that had been put forward from time to time by various members — the two resolutions adopted by the UNDC. One, contained in document UNDC/224, recommended that the UN General Assembly give urgent consideration to the question of convening a World Disarmament Conference to which all countries would be invited. This resolution was not addressed to the ENDC and, although during the debates a number of representatives indicated their countries' views on the proposal, it did not come in for significant discussion and is, accordingly, not dealt with in this article. It need only be recalled in passing that Canada voted for the UNDC resolution and that the Canadian Government finds the suggestion of considerable interest and worthy of the most careful study, as stated by its representative in the ENDC on August 5.

The second resolution, contained in document UNDC/225, was addressed directly to the ENDC. It recommended the early reconvening of the ENDC in order to pursue the question of general and complete disarmament and certain tension-reducing measures. It also recommended that the Disarmament Committee accord special priority to developing a comprehensive test-ban treaty and measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. In the absence of a formal agenda for this session of the ENDC, delegations have been free to choose their own subjects for discussion. Following the recommendations of Resolution 225, however, debate centred largely on nuclear tests and non-dissemination. This course was consistently supported by the Western members of the Committee.

At several points during the session, the Communist delegations made polemical attacks on Western policies, and in particular on the actions of the United States in Vietnam and the Dominican Republic. They attempted to persuade the Conference that such events demonstrated the need to concentrate attention on the familiar Soviet proposals that all countries withdraw their troops from foreign

<sup>1</sup>Countries participating in the last session were Brazil, Britain, Bulgaria, Burma, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, India, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Roumania, Sweden, the U.S.S.R., the U.A.R., and the U.S.A. Though also a member, France did not participate in the work of the Committee.

<sup>2</sup>For an outline of its discussions, see *External Affairs*, August 1965, Pp. 336-342.