

We must also be aware of the danger to peace in Europe arising from recent charges levelled by the Soviet union against the Federal German Republic and the evocation of an alleged unilateral right of intervention in yet another country. In the view of Canada, no such right exists.

While condemning the Soviet union and its allies for what they have done we must be ready to seize every opportunity for serious and constructive discussion of the issues that divide east and west. So long as Soviet troops remain on Czechoslovakian territory the progress of such discussions will of necessity be slow and cautious. But there is one area in which we must press on. Negotiations to end the arms race should be pursued vigorously. Progress on this front will benefit all nations, including Czechoslovakia.

THE ARMS RACE

Canada, and no doubt a great majority of members of the United Nations, was heartened by the announcement of the United States and the Soviet union on July 1 of their agreement to begin negotiations on the limitation of strategic nuclear weapons including anti-ballistic missiles. I urge the United States and the Soviet union to begin these talks without delay and to support the early resumption of negotiations in the eighteen nation disarmament committee on a comprehensive test ban, a halt in the production of fissionable material for military purposes and the reduction and subsequent elimination of nuclear stockpiles.

Since we last met, the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons was opened for signature and has been signed by some 80 countries. Canada has signed the treaty and in due course intends to ratify it. All countries should help to realize the treaty's full potential by acceding to it soon.

The continued use of force in international disputes and the incalculable human suffering caused by war have drawn attention to the part played by the traffic in conventional arms in contributing to the conditions which lead to outbreaks of violence. In the days of the League of Nations, efforts were made to impose some restraints on the arms traffic by publicizing statistics about weapons and other types of armaments transferred between states. In our view, the concept of an international register of arms transfers should be revived.

My government is interested, too, in the possibility of limiting supplies of armaments

in regions of acute political and military confrontation and has noted with approval the recent indication that under certain conditions, the USSR favours "the implementation of measures for regional disarmament and reduction of armaments in various parts of the world, including the Middle East."

NIGERIA

Next to the fear of war which I have so far been discussing in its various current aspects, we are all keenly aware that hunger and serious privation are issues which, especially when they reach disastrous proportions, cannot be ignored in this body. The Secretary General recognized this point when he drew to our attention the situation in Nigeria in the introduction in his annual report.

The Canadian delegation acknowledges and fully understands the request of the Organization of African Unity that governments abstain from any action which might impair the unity, territorial integrity and peace of Nigeria. We are also aware and appreciative of the efforts made by the government of Nigeria and many other governments to deal with the humanitarian issues. We trust that such efforts will expand in keeping with the requirements of the situation. In the face of the human tragedy which has unfolded before our eyes, it is only natural that people everywhere should feel deep sympathy for the Nigerian people and be anxious that no international effort be spared to come to the help of those in need.

Because of our sympathy and concern for the Nigerian people, the Canadian government is providing Hercules aircraft with crews and has allocated over one million dollars for relief supplies for Nigeria through the International Red Cross, whose invaluable service on this occasion, despite the difficulties arising from civil war, has given us grounds for admiration. In addition, Canadian voluntary agencies have made substantial contributions. My government also agreed, at the request of the government of Nigeria, to participate in the International team which has been observing the situation in the territories of the eastern region where federal government authority has been restored, and whose continuing reports will give an impartial account of what is happening. The reports should be as full and detailed as possible in order to serve their intended purpose.

We do not yet know the full dimensions of the problems of immediate relief which may