

offices throughout the world begin to turn their attention to the annual General Assembly of the United Nations. It is an opportune moment at which to give hon. members an account of some of the accomplishments of the agencies of that organization during the period since it last met in plenary session, and to give some thought to matters to which its attention will be devoted at the forthcoming fourteenth session.

First there is the matter of disarmament. Hon. Members will be aware that during the past several months discussion of the substantive problems of disarmament has been limited to the negotiations at Geneva on the discontinuance of nuclear tests. These negotiations were begun among the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union on October 31 last. The central problem separating the two sides became clear at quite an early stage. It concerns the procedures to be used for the dispatch of teams to make on-site inspections of unidentified events which could be suspected of being nuclear explosions. The United Kingdom and the United States position has been that inspection should be initiated automatically, on the basis of agreed technical criteria, by the administrator of the control system unless a contrary decision were taken by a two thirds majority of the control commission. The Soviet Union has argued that such arrangements would enable the Western powers to use the control machinery for purposes of espionage. The Soviet Union therefore has demanded that the dispatch of inspection teams should require the concurrence of the three nuclear powers.

With a view to finding a way out of this deadlock Prime Minister Macmillan, during his visit to Moscow, suggested to Premier Khrushchev that each side should have the right to demand that an agreed annual quota of inspections be made which would not require votes in the control commission. Some weeks later the Soviet Representative at Geneva introduced a proposal based upon this concept. I may say that the Canadian Government considers that Prime Minister Macmillan's idea seems more likely than any other suggestion we have seen to provide the basis for a solution to this most difficult problem.

Following a short recess when the Foreign Ministers' meeting started, negotiations were resumed on June 8, and shortly thereafter the three representatives agreed to the formation of a working group of experts to study methods for detection of nuclear explosions carried out at high altitudes; that is, from thirty kilometres to fifty kilometres above the earth. The expert group met beginning June 22 and their report has just been received. I trust that its technical findings will facilitate political agreement.

Also during the past month the United States Representative introduced papers relating to the problem of detecting underground nuclear tests. The Soviet Representative has not as yet agreed to take these new data under consideration or to remit them to a group of experts.