

a series of Western proposals which offered further concessions and gave promise of the early conclusion of a treaty on the discontinuance of nuclear weapons tests.

These developments demand that this Assembly give the highest priority to considering the permanent cessation of nuclear weapons testing. The progress achieved during three years of arduous negotiations in Geneva must not be sacrificed. At this session we must take positive steps to ensure that without delay the nuclear Powers renew their efforts to agree on a safeguarded treaty which will obligate them to end nuclear weapons testing. Subsequently all other countries should adhere to this treaty.

Disarmament

I should now like to say a few words about disarmament.

At this session, more than ever before, the question of disarmament requires our urgent attention. The crisis over Berlin and the great anxiety created by the resumption of nuclear weapons tests have brought to every mind the death and destruction which would follow the outbreak of nuclear war. We must check the spiraling competition for supremacy in armaments. That means pressing without delay for vigorous and effective measures of disarmament. After all, the Charter of the United Nations places the responsibility on the shoulders of all delegations present in this hall -- new and old Members alike. To fulfill this obligation we must concentrate on the steps which will lead most directly to concrete measures.

Canada welcomes the agreement by the United States and the Soviet Union on principles to guide negotiations on disarmament. This agreement represents an important accomplishment, but it is only the first step. Substantive negotiations have not been resumed, even though more than a year has passed since the previous talks were broken off in Geneva.

The comprehensive programme for disarmament introduced by President Kennedy a week ago provides a sound basis for serious negotiation. Canada co-operated actively in the preparation of this important new plan. The programme it sets out accords precisely with the principles which have been agreed between the United States and the Soviet Union. I commend this new plan to all Members of the Assembly.

The Soviet Union, as all representatives here know, has also put forward a disarmament plan, the general philosophy of which is explained in the letter (A/4887) of the Soviet Foreign Minister to the President of the Assembly. Delegations may be asking themselves whose plan is the better -- that of the Soviet Union or that of the United States. I suggest that it is unnecessary for this Assembly to decide that question.