

some importance in opening up contacts between people in public life in the countries concerned. There has been an exchange of delegations between Canada and the Soviet Union in the field of northern development, an area of obvious common interest and in the field of scientific research.

We have welcomed the decisions of the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia to participate in the World Exhibition of 1967; and there has been a mutually satisfactory agreement concerning large wheat sales to the Soviet Union. Finally, I might mention the establishment of diplomatic relations with Hungary and our interest in extending further our diplomatic representation in Eastern Europe. In the Far East, we have had limited trade and press contacts with China.

I should hope that the expansion of commercial relations between groups of countries with different economic systems and different trading interests would contribute eventually to lessening tensions. Recent history does show that co-operation among nations to overcome their difficulties and to promote the growth of their mutual trade plays a helpful part in developing better relations between them in other areas as well.

While the long-term trends are encouraging, there are some immediate and difficult problems of great concern to all nations. Perhaps the most important example is disarmament.

Canada has played an active part in the negotiations in this field to find some means of halting the further spread of nuclear weapons. Proposals to this end in the form of a draft treaty have recently been tabled in the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee in Geneva. Although these proposals have not been immediately accepted, the Canadian Government gives them its full support in the belief that they constitute an equitable basis for discussion of this vital question. Canada participated actively in the preparation of these proposals and several Canadian ideas are reflected in them.

It is our earnest hope that these proposals will receive the careful study and consideration of other governments represented at the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee. In our view, they provide a suitable basis for negotiations leading to a non-proliferation treaty embracing both the non-nuclear and nuclear powers. Canada is prepared to join with other nations in a determined effort to achieve progress with a sense of the urgency which this important issue demands.

On the question of general disarmament and of relations between the leading powers, there are two points that are worth making in relation to some recent developments. It would be quite illusory, in the first place, to expect either of the two leading parties to the negotiations to disarm unilaterally or to make agreements contrary to the interests of its partners which must always be taken into account where vital security matters are at stake.