

Our suggestions were received very well by the other Western foreign ministers and also, when the NATO Council met, they were favourably received in the deliberations of that Council.

NATO Council

Then a word or two with regard to the NATO Council meeting. It was concerned primarily with preparations for the summit. Most of the time was spent in discussing what the three Western heads of government should propose at the summit meeting. There had been three working groups set up: one on disarmament, of which of course Canada was a member; another on Germany and Berlin, of which Germany was a member in addition to the United Kingdom, the United States and France; and also one on East-West relations, which was composed of representatives of the United Kingdom, the United States and France and also one representative from the NATO Council.

The Council endorsed the report which the Disarmament Working Group had submitted and affirmed it in the following words:

The alliance shares the aim of general and complete disarmament to be achieved by stages under effective international control, and supports the proposals of the Western negotiators at Geneva to this end.

The Council also made reference to the importance of tying in the United Nations with the work of this Disarmament Committee. The Council asserted their view that these proposals provided the best means of carrying out the United Nations resolutions of November 20, 1959, and also regretted the unwillingness which the Soviet side had shown to discuss specific practical measures of disarmament.

Canada throughout has been very insistent that the United Nations should be kept in this picture. We regard ourselves as speaking on that Committee for the various middle and smaller powers who are members of the United Nations, and, as this world body has the final responsibility for disarmament, we think it is of the greatest importance that it should be kept right in the picture. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Hammarskjold, spoke to the disarmament Committee at the last meeting they held . . .

On the question of Germany and Berlin, there was a general endorsement of the approach which the three plan to use at the summit, and general agreement that it should be left to the discretion of the three how best to present the Western position in the light of developments at the summit. The NATO Council reaffirmed publicly its view that the solution of the problem of Germany can only be found in reunification on the basis of self-determination, recalled its declaration of December 16, 1958, and once again expressed its determination to protect the freedom of the people of West Berlin.

The third broad group of subjects dealt with was East-West relations. This, of course, covers quite a wide area, including exchanges of contacts in cultural and information fields and the possibility of discussing trade, aid and other economic questions with the Soviet at the summit. There was also discussion of