

But, besides the long-term problem -- how to solve international disputes and keep the peace in a disarmed world --, we have the problems of peace keeping of yesterday and of today, that is, before the process of disarmament has begun. We must be prepared to cope with the same kind of problems until that process begins. The lessons of recent experience should guide us in planning for the long-term goal, and, in planning peace-keeping methods and machinery for the nearer future, we should have that long-term goal in mind. I believe that study of these long-term problems in this Committee can usefully complement the continuing efforts in the broader forum of the United Nations to lay firmer foundations for the organization's peace-keeping function.

Canada's Faith in the Committee

Finally, I should like to reaffirm my faith and that of my Government in the work of this Committee as a negotiating body which can make real progress in the months ahead towards the solution of disarmament problems. We attach great importance to the institution of the co-Chairmen. That arrangement encourages informal bilateral discussions, in which we have always had strong belief. The Moscow-Washington "hot-line" arrangement was a by-product of those discussions, and I hope that there will be further achievements and agreements as a result of these bilateral discussions. May I say that the presence on this Committee of the uncommitted nations has, in our judgment, strengthened these discussions. World opinion is practically fully represented on this Committee as a result of the present composition of the Committee as a whole. The proposals which have been submitted, particularly in the field of collateral measures, provide ample material for constructive negotiation at this time. I have pointed out some of the proposals which, taken either singly or in some combination, do, I believe, hold out good prospects for agreement in the near future.

There has been much discussion in the past few months about whether a détente in East-West relations exists. While there is an improvement in our relations, we note that the major political problems continue to be unresolved. However, we feel that there is very strong evidence of a real improvement in East-West relations, and undoubtedly that has been made possible by the measure of limited agreement which began last August, in particular, with the initiation by the three great powers of a test-ban agreement and the subsequent action of over 100 other countries which joined in support of that agreement. Therefore, some limited agreement by this Committee within the foreseeable future would have a tremendous effect in keeping up the momentum that began last August.

It is my earnest hope that the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament will concentrate its efforts wherever it seems most likely that an advance can be made and that, having done so, the Committee will be able to report to the next session of the General Assembly of the United Nations that we have moved closer to our goal of a disarmed and peaceful world.

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