

expressed the belief that informal and private exchanges between political leaders represented on the Council would help it to fulfil its responsibilities. In all candour I must report that we found that some of our colleagues were opposed to this approach. However, I continue to be convinced of the value of the concept of periodic meetings of the Council at ministerial level. Such meetings could give the Council the high-level political direction that is essential if it is to take the initiative in preserving peace when conflict is anticipated, as well as restoring it when conflict has occurred. Mr. President, I know that I am not alone in expressing these views, and I urge those members of the Council, present and future, who share them, not to give up their efforts to have the Council fulfil its role as envisioned in the Charter.

I also think that it is time to consider again the size of the Council. In 1965, when the membership was increased from 11 to 15, there were 118 members of the UN. Now there are 150. Many states which would contribute well to the work of the Council must wait a generation before they can hope to serve.

Although no longer a member of the Council after the end of this year, Canada will follow with deep interest the Council's deliberations. We will be prepared to contribute in any feasible way to strengthen this organization's peacekeeping capacity, and to help galvanize its willpower in the spirit of friendly relations, cooperation and harmony called for by the United Nations Charter.

Disarmament

Looking back over the past year I take satisfaction from the Special Session on Disarmament.

The Disarmament Session adopted by consensus a Programme of Action that clearly identified the most urgent negotiating tasks, including vigorous pursuit of measures to curb the nuclear arms race, the conclusion of a nuclear test