

No. 65/5 Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Text of a Statement in the First (Political) Committee
of the United Nations General Assembly by the Canadian
Representative, Major-General E.L.M. Burns, on
October 19, 1965.

The Canadian Delegation feels that, in beginning to discuss the vital problem of preventing the further spread of nuclear weapons, we cannot do better than quote from the memorandum on this subject by the eight non-aligned members of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee. This is Document ENDC/158 of 15 September 1965, and is included in Document A/5986. The parts of this memorandum which we think this Committee would particularly wish to note are the following:

"The Disarmament Commission of the United Nations adopted Resolution DC/225 on 15 June 1965, with an overwhelming majority and, inter alia, 'convinced that failure to conclude a universal treaty or agreement to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons leads to the most serious consequences', recommended that the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee should 'also accord special priority to the consideration of the question of a treaty or convention to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, giving close attention to the various suggestions that agreement could be facilitated by adopting a programme of certain related measures'.

"... The delegations of the NATO countries represented in the Committee have submitted a draft treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The non-aligned delegations regret, however, that it has not yet been possible to reconcile the various approaches for an appropriate or adequate treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

"... A treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons is not an end in itself but only a means to an end. That end is the achievement of general and complete disarmament, and, more particularly, nuclear disarmament. The eight delegations are convinced that measures to prohibit the spread of nuclear weapons should, therefore, be coupled with or followed by tangible steps to halt the nuclear arms race and to limit, reduce and eliminate the stocks of nuclear weapons and the means of their delivery."

The draft treaty on non-proliferation referred to in the non-aligned nations' memorandum is, of course, that which was tabled by the United States Delegation on 17 August 1965. Its principal purpose is to give effect to the recommendations of Resolution 1665 (XVI) and that of Resolution 225 of