

One fact which was of great help was that at the Prime Ministers' Conference in London in March there was a statement issued on disarmament which was published as an annex to the final communiqué. Here was a statement agreed to by all the Commonwealth Prime Ministers on this question of disarmament. It contained the following very significant and very helpful paragraph:

The principal military powers should resume direct negotiations without delay in close contact with the United Nations, which is responsible for disarmament under the Charter. Since peace is the concern of the whole world, other nations should also be associated with the disarmament negotiations, either directly or through some special machinery to be set up by the United Nations or by both means.

Canada is working now in preparation for the resumption of disarmament negotiations. As Hon. Members know Lieutenant General E.L.M. Burns is our adviser on this subject and he would be heading any Canadian delegation participating in disarmament talks. I believe there is good reason to expect real progress in the field of disarmament during the present year.

#### Nuclear Tests

Hon. Members will recall that Canada has taken a firm position on the question of nuclear tests. Time and again we have said we are against any further nuclear weapons tests. We continue to follow with the greatest attention the developments in the three-power negotiations which are taking place now in Geneva on this parallel question of finding a way to end further nuclear weapons tests. This conference is one which has never been broken up. It has been going on now for nearly three years, but has been adjourned from time to time. Agreement has been reached on many aspects of the problem but there has been no final agreement and yet, during the whole of that time, not one of those three participating nations has undertaken a nuclear test. There has been a voluntary moratorium during this intervening period. This moratorium has continued until today, in spite of the demands from people, for instance in the United States, that further tests are essential and that testing should be resumed.

Before the Christmas break in the recent session of the General Assembly, the Canadian position on nuclear tests was once again reaffirmed by our votes in support of two resolutions asking to reinforce the present moratorium on nuclear weapons tests. Canadian opposition to testing is based not only on concern for the radiation hazard but also on its belief that the prevention of testing will inhibit the spread of nuclear weapons.