

International tensions would be immediately reduced, international security would at once be increased and a notable step forward would be taken towards agreement on general and complete disarmament.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to discuss briefly some of the questions concerning general and complete disarmament which the Eighteen-Nation Committee has recently been considering. Disarmament questions before the conference fall largely within three general categories: first, questions on which differences preventing final agreement are small; second, areas in which significant differences exist between the position of the two sides; third, questions which have not as yet been comprehensively explored in the Disarmament Committee.

Under the first heading, the differences in the position of the two sides concerning conventional armaments and armed forces have been greatly lessened, as a result of changes introduced in both plans during the course of negotiations in Geneva. Canada believes that agreement on the question of conventional disarmament has now come within reach. There are also good prospects of overcoming the remaining differences in a closely related field -- the level of armed forces at the end of stage one and there is already virtual agreement concerning the level of armed forces at the end of stage two. In the field of conventional armaments and armed forces, it will also be important for the Disarmament Committee to study the obligations of smaller countries with regard to the levels of conventional armaments and armed forces which they may be permitted to retain during stages two and three.

In the second category, one of the key areas where substantial differences exist is that of the reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons vehicles. Although this question was explored during the last round of discussions in the Disarmament Committee, further consideration is necessary in order to develop a basis for agreement. The Secretary of State for External Affairs for Canada, the Honourable Howard Green, in the Plenary Session of the United