

from the disarmament aspects at the present stage. But, of course, the two are closely related and the disarmament aspects of outer space are related to the general problem of disarmament. The peaceful use of outer space under an international programme should not give military advantages to any particular countries.

We also believe that it is of urgent importance to consider the disarmament aspects of outer space in an appropriate manner. No country more than Canada, which could be at the centre of a missile war, desires to ensure that outer space should not be used for destructive or aggressive purposes. We think, however, that this should be dealt with, and dealt with urgently, by the United Nations organs set up to consider disarmament. In August 1957 Canada joined with the United States, the United Kingdom and France in proposing the establishment of a technical body to study the design of an inspection system to ensure the peaceful uses of outer space. This proposal was endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 1148 (XII) adopted last year. I wish to reiterate it now.

The time to control missiles in outer space is now, not when large numbers exist. The Canadian Prime Minister, in commenting on the Soviet announcement of the first successful test of an ICBM in August last year, expressed the hope that the first effect of that event would be redoubled sincerity and effort to ensure that the passage of time did not bring to the problem of missiles the complications which delays in reaching agreement had introduced in the field of nuclear weapons.

However, we are not interested in mere pious declarations. The restriction of outer space to peaceful purposes only, must be controlled and must be part of a balanced disarmament programme. We were glad to note that the Soviet Representative has also recognized, as he said in his statement last week, the necessity for control to be established within the framework of the United Nations over the implementation of such measures.

We agree, as we always have, that all aspects of disarmament are related. There can be no question of accepting the elimination of all bases in order to secure the establishment of a United Nations space organization, but it would not be unreasonable to expect that any serious discussion of the disarmament aspects of outer space would take into consideration other aspects of disarmament that were strategically related. It would appear to us that any agreement related to the prohibition of use of outer space for war-like purposes can scarcely fail to provide for international restrictions of some sort on all missiles over a certain range.