

Once the meetings of the Committee had commenced, the Western delegates endeavoured to get clarification of the various points in the Eastern proposal, and made various suggestions. For example, the head of the Canadian delegation, General Burns, made a very useful speech on Friday last. I have not yet received the verbatim report of his remarks, but when I do I will probably ask for leave to table it. In addition, of course, there have been discussions going on among the four Western nations concerning what reply should be made to the Soviet proposals. The Canadian reaction to the Soviet proposals was duly given to General Burns some days ago. It has been important that in the work of this Committee the Western nations should work together as closely as possible. Of course the Eastern nations do not have that problem, because the four, apart from the Soviet, simply appear to do exactly what they are told by the Soviet.

The United States completed their reactions to the Soviet proposals late last week, and we received a copy on Thursday evening. There have been consultations in Geneva over the week-end concerning the United States proposals and proposals which had been put forward by the other four Western nations, including Canada, with the intent that there would be a Western plan announced within the next day or two. In addition, the Western plan was to have been taken before the Permanent Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization probably today or tomorrow, but certainly early this week, and then it would have been presented in the Committee of Ten.

I am not yet in a position to table the Canadian proposals in response to the Russian suggestions or to the United States proposals -- to which, incidentally, they were very close -- but in my opinion the new Western proposals and the Soviet proposals of June 2, which the Soviet bloc has now refused to discuss further, could have provided a basis for detailed, businesslike and uninterrupted negotiations. It now becomes obvious that the Soviet side were not seriously interested in negotiating on the last plan they put forward. I believe that their action in stalling out of the Committee as they did this morning was irresponsible, and was taken for propaganda purposes. We will now hear great talk in the United Nations General Assembly about the wonderful plan the Soviets proposed, and there will be charges made that the Western nations refused even to discuss it. I believe further, ... that the Eastern side have overplayed their hand again, just as they overplayed their hand in the breaking up of the summit conference a few weeks ago.

Canada, from the start, has been very much in earnest about the work of this Disarmament Committee. I believe that the Canadian Government, in following that policy, has had the support of every Member of the House regardless of the party to which he or she belongs, and also the overwhelming support of the Canadian