

principles adopted by the Commonwealth Prime Ministers last spring, and I quote the significant paragraph from the communique of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Meeting:

"Once started, the process of disarmament should be continued without interruption until it is completed."

This same obligation was also expressly recognized by both sides in the joint statement of principles on 20 September.

The new proposals also give considerable attention to effective procedures for maintaining the peace. It is a most important step forward that the requirement for effective international peace-keeping machinery has been given full recognition in the statement of principles agreed between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Disarmament and Peace Machinery

To the Canadian Government (and I am sure this is true of other governments), it is obvious that there is a close connexion between the progressive reduction of national armaments and the strengthening of international arrangements to keep the peace. We recognize that this question is one that will require much closer consideration in order to find a generally acceptable solution. Indeed, my delegation considers that it would be desirable to have all aspects of this problem studied by a special body to be set up for this purpose within the United Nations. In other words, while we go ahead with negotiations on disarmament let us be moving at the same time for the setting up of peace-keeping machinery.

Finally, the new proposals represent a genuine attempt to take account of earlier Soviet positions. They have been carefully balanced to make quite certain that their adoption would not result in a military advantage for any one state or group of states. Moreover, they are not presented on a take-it-or-leave-it basis but as a contribution to constructive negotiations.

It would not be profitable for me to go further at this time into questions of detail. My purpose in raising them today has been to emphasize once again that the foundation on which constructive negotiations can be built already exists. We have agreement on basic principles; we are easily within reach of an understanding on the question of composition; and we have detailed proposals from both sides which have a number of significant elements in common. We must seize the opportunity we now have to get down quickly to the actual consideration of a full programme of disarmament.