

We based our offensive on the letters which had been exchanged between President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchov at the time of the Cuban crisis. They each wrote saying: "We must now get together and settle the rest of the problems. Why could we not do this about a test ban?" We picked that up, and with the impetus of those letters behind us, we were able to help bring about a resolution which became known as the "Canadian resolution", although we had only submitted amendments, and this resolution was endorsed by everybody except the Communists, who abstained.

The Disarmament Committee resumed on November 26 and worked until December 20, when it adjourned until January 15 and, as I explained a few minutes earlier, that date has been put back until February 12. In the meantime developments have taken place which may be, and I hope will be, of great significance. There has been this exchange of letters between President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchov ... and the Americans, the Russians and the British are now meeting in Washington trying to bring about an agreement on the terms of a test ban. They have made considerable progress. The main difference between them at the moment is as to the number of automatic seismic stations which there will be in Russia and on the number of times an international team can be sent in to inspect those stations. The Russians have agreed to three inspections annually, although until a few days ago they were saying they would not agree to any inspection of any kind; the Americans have asked for eight or ten inspections.

It is of the utmost importance that agreement be reached on this question. If they could reach agreement on a test ban then it would stop radiation, and would lead to the possibility of making settlements on other disarmament problems. In any event, Canada will continue her efforts to bring about a reasonable settlement, and I think today Canada is generally recognized as the leader in the field of working out some disarmament agreement between the East and the West.

So much for Canada's activities in the field of disarmament. Then there is a related activity, and that is the field of peace keeping. Mind you ... if we are able to bring about a measure of disarmament, there will be more and more peace-keeping work to be done. The two together, and in my judgment peace keeping in the world under UN auspices is going to become steadily more important. Canada is ideally situated for this role and, with India, Canada is today the most experienced nation in the world in the peace-keeping field.

Take, for example, the Congo. We have been in the Congo from the start. The House authorized the sending of up to 500 personnel, and Canada has been running the communications system for the United Nations in the Congo, taking a very active part in the air services, and also in the staff work for the whole United Nations force. A lot of this work is done by bilingual Canadians, French-speaking Canadians, and all over the world there is a job to be done by Canadians, who are French-speaking. In the Congo they are the leaders in Canadian activities.