

measures leading towards the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control would be worked out in detail and agreed upon in the shortest possible time. Finally, they will take place in the improved atmosphere which, for want of a better phrase, is sometimes called the "Camp David spirit."

It is perfectly clear from past experience that mutual confidence is an essential prerequisite to successful disarmament negotiations and I feel that the present mood in international affairs offers a quite unique opportunity to come to grips with this problem.

East-West Summit Meetings

The time at my disposal is too brief to go into other aspects of East-West negotiations, but I might add that Canada welcomes the fact that there is to be not just one East-West summit meeting but a series, to take place in succession in the respective capitals of the participants. We have long favoured a series of summit meetings for a number of reasons: for example, because complex questions of international security could patently not be settled in one brief meeting; further, because there is intrinsic value in keeping alive the discussions between the great powers; and also because one all-or-nothing summit conference could easily raise false expectations in the public mind which would almost certainly be disappointed.

Now that Canada has accepted what might be termed an advisory role on one aspect of summit talks — disarmament —, the series of meetings now in prospect is bound to impose a heavy responsibility; but I am sure all Canadians will approve, realizing that on the outcome of these discussions may hang the fate of the civilized world. These are the sort of stakes for which the diplomatic game is being played today.

So much for Canada's part in the great international meetings — and now a few words about our traditional associations with other international groups and with individual countries.

Our Role in the United Nations

Without attempting to arrange these in order of importance, I go on to our role in the United Nations. This picture covers a wider canvas, for it embraces a valuable association with 81 other member nations. This great world organization since its inception has received strong and consistent support from Canada. Certainly the United Nations is not unlimited in its effectiveness and its authority grows slowly; but I remind you that these very limitations arise from the sovereign equality of the member states and from the tensions which prevail in a world divided into ideological camps.

Although it would be unrealistic to believe that the United Nations could achieve solutions of all current international problems, it is equally true that, if the organization should collapse, the world community would have no alternative but to erect a new similar organization in its place. It symbolizes and gives practical effect to mankind's desire for an ordered world and a betterment of