

convening a World Disarmament Conference. No conditions have been laid down, but suggestions have been made as to what matters of organization the preparatory committee should deal with. I am sure that the representative of Byelorussia appreciates, as everyone else must, that if the World Disarmament Conference is to be successful, it must be properly organized. This requirement for careful preparation for a large conference is not our idea, of course, but has been widely recognized for some time. A concrete example of this was the UNCTAD meeting which took place in Geneva in the spring and early summer of 1964. Before this very successful conference could be held a preparatory group was required to meet off and on for more than a year to ensure a properly organized and productive meeting.

In view of the many complicated questions which will have to be resolved, the Canadian Delegation supports the proposal of a preparatory commission to go into all the aspects of the problem. This idea has been supported by a great many representatives including our distinguished Rapporteur Mr. El Kony in his very instructive statement to the Committee on November 19. When this preparatory commission is being established, we think there are three considerations which should be borne in mind. First of these is the necessity to keep the group relatively small if it is to work effectively. A membership of 25 has been mentioned informally on occasion, and it would be our view that if the commission is to carry out satisfactorily the work entrusted to it, this number could scarcely be exceeded. The second consideration is that membership of the commission should be broadly representative of those countries whose attendance at the proposed conference is essential because of their significant military power or other reasons. Finally, we think that to the largest extent possible membership of the preparatory group should be made up of those countries whose practical experience in complexities of disarmament negotiations will enable them to help in finding satisfactory answers to questions to be resolved.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, there is one last point I would like to make and that is to express our support of the widely-held view that, while soundings and preparations for a World Disarmament Conference are under way, these activities should be conducted so as not to interfere with the disarmament deliberations which may be taking place elsewhere in bodies such as the United Nations General Assembly or the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Commission. As I think we all appreciate, the world disarmament conference to be truly useful must supplement rather than supersede existing arrangements for considering disarmament problems. In particular, it could not carry on detailed consideration of specific questions which is possible in a more restricted body such as the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Commission. No one disarmament forum can be expected to have a monopoly of wisdom in this most important field, and we must do everything we can to assure that, in establishing a new forum, we are not in any way reducing the effectiveness of those which already exist. Because we feel so strongly about this question, it has been a matter of considerable satisfaction to the Canadian Delegation to find that most other delegations agree. In particular I might refer again to Mr. El Kony's statement of November 19 when he said: "There is nothing contradictory between the negotiating table in Geneva and a world forum for disarmament which latter could serve as a real stimulation to the technicians in Geneva".