

easy. I trust that all members of the Committee will bear this point in mind. Naturally, when we come to try to work out the terms of a Disarmament Convention itself, it will be vital to avoid any possible ambiguities. For the present stage, however, I trust that the Committee will share my view that the present formulation, while not perhaps perfect, is satisfactory as a vehicle for a framework of general objectives and for a procedure which will allow substantive negotiations to go forward with the optimum chance of success.

Before I conclude, Mr. Chairman, I should like to pay a tribute, on behalf of the Canadian Delegation, to the patience, flexibility and readiness to co-operate which we have found in the Delegations of France, United Kingdom and United States, who during the past eight days have been our associates in these negotiations with the U.S.S.R. The readiness on the part of our colleagues to keep their eye on the main objective and to accommodate themselves on non-essentials to the wishes of colleagues, in the interest of co-operation and or progress, has won our admiration. Our objective and that of our associates has of course been in the realm not of mere words but of acts. Inevitably, negotiations on a subject which deals even procedurally with the vital security of nations, and which attracts a great deal of attention and comment in many parts of the world - inevitably such negotiations are complex, and the negotiators have to be sensitive at all times to a wide variety of considerations. I should also like to thank the distinguished leader of the Soviet Delegation for his unfailing courtesy at all times throughout our talks.

Finally, I should add, in all seriousness, a warning against any hasty or irresponsible optimism. The debate of the past few weeks in this Assembly has made it crystal clear that the gap which still divides us from the Government of the Soviet Union, on the nature and scope of an acceptable disarmament programme - and particularly on the all-important matter of control - remains deep and wide. In a few particulars, that gap has been narrowed. That is heartening. But a very wide gap still remains on points of substance. Facile optimism, or wishful irresponsibility, would be fatuous and could be a grave disservice to the cause of peace.

So too, we think, would be cynicism or despair over the great and vital points on which major differences remain. The sound attitude, I suggest, Mr. Chairman, is that we should take heart that at least on procedure, and on a broad definition of objectives, five nations are now agreed: but that we should be careful not to overestimate this very limited step forward.

When we will have finished the general debate, our task will be to set up machinery for the long and difficult negotiations which obviously lie ahead of us. Patience and perseverance will certainly be essential in the future as in the past. But we trust that the Committee will share my Delegation's view that the draft resolution which now stands in the name of Canada, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, and the United States, provides an acceptable next step.