



CANADA

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## DISARM IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY

The following is a partial text of the address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard C. Green, on July 24 to the 18-nation Disarmament Committee meeting in Geneva:

"...The agreement signed yesterday on the future of Laos has shown that initial suspicion and distrust need not be insuperable barriers — and I think that is the main trouble in the world today, too much suspicion and distrust. I repeat, suspicion and distrust need not be insuperable barriers, if all concerned are prepared to work patiently towards agreement. Certain difficult political issues were faced in the Conference on Laos and acceptable solutions were worked out involving compromises by all. I suggest that the same determination to negotiate until agreement is reached should guide our further work at this Disarmament Conference.

"We convened here last March, at the request of the United Nations General Assembly, with the specific task of working out an agreement on general and complete disarmament in accordance with a statement of principles which has been agreed on between the United States of America and the Soviet Union but also had been accepted unanimously by the General Assembly. I draw your attention to the last of these principles, which reads as follows: 'States participating in the negotiations should seek to achieve and implement the widest possible agreement at the earliest possible date. Efforts should continue without interruption — this is the principle agreed to unanimously — until agreement upon the total programme has been achieved, and efforts to ensure early agreement on and implementation of

measures of disarmament should be undertaken without prejudicing progress on agreement on the total programme and in such a way that these measures would facilitate and form part of that programme.'

"This was decided at the last session of the General Assembly. We are now only eight weeks away from the next session. Therefore, it is appropriate to consider seriously what this Conference should be doing in the coming weeks to fulfil the specific mandate which it has been given.

### ADJOURNMENT OPPOSED

"I have been concerned about a growing tendency to accept with resignation a return to the General Assembly with virtually no progress to report and furthermore to adjourn this Conference while the General Assembly is in session. This must be resisted and with it the temptation to spend the intervening weeks in building up a case for blaming others for failure to achieve results here in Geneva.

"...Can we believe that any member of this Conference would be held free of responsibility by the United Nations if we recessed for the purpose of wrangling in New York? The agreed principle which I have already quoted shows clearly that the United Nations expects efforts to reach agreement here to be continued without interruption. This Disarmament Conference has the specific injunction to persevere, which was not the case with its predecessors. When the Conference was set up, every member of the United Nations, of course, was aware of the difficulties we should face but, for that very reason, the Conference was instructed to continue its efforts without interruption....