

mission and laid upon Canada, as a permanent member of the Commission, a part of the continuing responsibility for finding a solution to the problem of disarmament. Our participation in the negotiations in that Commission and more recently in the Disarmament Commission and its Sub-Committee has made us acutely aware of the difficulties which beset the problem; it has also enabled us to associate ourselves intimately with the repeated efforts and initiatives on the part of the Western Powers to bring about a general disarmament agreement. This is not the place to recapitulate these successive endeavours which stand in the records of the United Nations. However, you will understand, Mr. Chairman, that my colleagues and I are impelled to state that we cannot accept the charge of a negative stand, as alleged in your Government's statement of May 14, on the part either of Canada or of the other Western Powers.

The Government of Canada shares the regrets you have expressed that the discussions on disarmament have not been productive of agreement. However, it is our impression that the more recent negotiations, particularly in the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission, have given some cause for encouragement. We therefore differ with the stated views of your Government that the discussions in the Sub-Committee have been marked by futility. It would, in our opinion, be unfortunate if these negotiations were to be interrupted. We favor the continuation of efforts through the United Nations to reach an agreement covering limitation, reduction and control of armaments including nuclear weapons. We consider that discussions in the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission as well as in the Commission itself are more than ever necessary in order to reach an agreement which will ensure the security of all by means of an adequate system of international control.

It is the belief of the Government of Canada that the international situation which we hope ultimately to achieve can be created only through the establishment of greater mutual confidence progressively and by stages. In any comprehensive programme directed to that end there should be arrangements designed not only to cover disarmament and control but also to solve urgent political questions, in particular the reunification of Germany and the problem of European security.

The Government of Canada is strongly of the opinion that if a mutually satisfactory agreement on disarmament can be negotiated an important contribution will have been made to the development of greater confidence between nations. I assure you, Mr. Chairman, that for our part, we will continue to exert every effort in negotiations within the framework of the United Nations to draw closer to an agreed solution. We are the more prepared to make these efforts to reach agreement because of our conviction that the disarmament problem is becoming even more intractable with the passage of time, but that if there is a corresponding willingness to co-operate in these negotiations on the part of the Soviet Government, significant and gratifying results can still be attained.