

CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE
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Statement by the Honourable Howard Green,
Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada,
in the 18-Member Disarmament Conference, Geneva,
March 27, 1962*

In my statement of March 19 I referred to seven areas in which there are elements common to both the United States and Soviet disarmament proposals. I suggested that this Conference should try to achieve early agreement on concrete measures in these fields.

Certain of the seven points which I mentioned, such as nuclear vehicles and conventional armaments, should properly be dealt with in the context of general disarmament. However, measures such as those dealing with outer space and surprise attack should be dealt with in the special committee which has been set up to discuss collateral or initial measures.

Several initial or collateral measures have been referred to by representatives around this table. In the opinion of my delegation it would be useful to begin with the question of outer space. I suggest this area as a point of departure for two reasons. First, all governments are agreed that it is of overriding importance to ensure that the rapid development of science in this field will not be used for destructive purposes. Second, there are clear provisions common to both the United States and Soviet plans which should enable us to reach agreement on a measure which would help to achieve this goal.

In Article 14 of the Soviet draft treaty it is provided that the orbiting or stationing in outer space of special devices capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction should be prohibited. The United States plan contains similar proposals in Section E of Stage 1. In the same section of the United States plan, provision is also made for advance notification of launchings of space vehicles and missiles. The USSR draft treaty contains an almost identical proposal in Article 14. My delegation considers that it would be of great significance to give formal recognition to the large measure of agreement which already exists on these two points in the United States and Soviet disarmament plans.

* Circulated as an official document of the Conference at the request of the Delegation of Canada.