

The first measure on which the Collateral Measures Committee of the 18-Nation Committee on Disarmament should negotiate is, in the view of the Canadian Delegation, to prevent the wider spread of nuclear weapons. Our Delegation would like to associate itself with the eloquent appeal of the representative of Ireland that the nuclear powers take immediate steps to deal with this urgent problem.

A second measure is to put into effect arrangements to reduce the risk of war by accident. The risk of a nuclear holocaust resulting from accident or miscalculation seems far greater than the risk that any nation would deliberately begin a nuclear war.

A third measure which should be given early consideration concerns the prevention of the stationing of weapons of mass destruction in outer space. The Secretary of State for External Affairs for Canada proposed in the 18-Nation Disarmament Committee that a declaration prohibiting such action should be adopted as a matter of priority. International agreement to this effect would be of great value in reducing the fear that the arms race might be extended to this environment. It would also be a first step toward a rule of law in outer space. Moreover, in our view, its adoption would implement and reinforce the two measures I have just mentioned. We welcome the statement by President Kennedy in his letter of 28 October to Chairman Khrushchov that "questions relating to the proliferation of nuclear weapons on earth and in outer space" should be given priority consideration along with related problems.

#### Nuclear-Free Zones

Another vital question which should be discussed in the Collateral Measures Committee is the establishment of nuclear-free zones in various parts of the world. The importance of this question has been brought to the attention of this Committee by the draft resolution, sponsored by Bolivia, Brazil and Chile, to create a nuclear-free zone in Latin America. The Canadian Delegation believes that the creation of such a zone is primarily a matter for the countries in the region concerned to decide for themselves. But the form of such agreements and, what is very important, the means for verifying that their provisions are being observed could appropriately be considered in the 18-Nation Disarmament Committee as a measure collateral to disarmament.

If we are to profit from the lessons of the Cuban crisis, it is of the highest importance that the 18-Nation Committee resume its work at once and that every effort be made to achieve agreement immediately on the important questions to which I have just referred. The statements of President Kennedy, Chairman Khrushchov and Prime Minister Macmillan, about which I spoke earlier, give new grounds for hope that agreements can be reached in these vital areas.