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ROLE OF NON-NUCLEAR POWERS IN DISARMAMENT

The following is the text of a statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard C. Green, in the First Committee of the United Nations on October 19:

"I have no wish in my statement today to reopen the arguments of the past. It seems to me that, for the time being, we must leave aside debates about which side has the better set of principles--important as they are, and I admit this importance--or which has the better plan for disarmament. The situation facing us is so serious that we must concentrate on the task of getting negotiations re-started. This is the prime responsibility of the First Committee at the present time.

"Moreover, in approaching the problem of disarmament at this session, I suggest that we take our main guidance from the 28-power resolution adopted unanimously on October 17. Among other things, it urged that 'immediate and constructive steps should be adopted in regard to the urgent problems' facing us. This extract was quoted this morning by the representative of the U.S.S.R.,--but, even so, I think it worthwhile repeating.

NEED FOR CONCERTED ACTION

"The need for serious discussion and action on our part is greater than ever. Almost without exception, the statements made during the course of this fifteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly have underlined the urgency and the importance of concerted action to re-start the disarmament negotiations and

to facilitate progress in them. We have been reminded that on a solution to the disarmament problem may well rest the question of whether or not there will be a new world war, and I believe that no one in this room today doubts that this potential danger exists.

"But many of those who wish to see disarmament achieved because they realize the awful consequences of not doing so, have not yet come to the equally important realization that successful negotiations will involve genuine compromise and balanced concessions from both sides, even though these may appear, in a short-term view, to involve some sacrifices.

"It is this fact which must be realized, and acted upon, before we can return, as return we must, to serious negotiations. Without this resolve, taken fully and consciously by all of us, no speech-making, no resolution, no change of negotiating bodies and no juggling of plans will have the slightest effect on the likelihood of real progress.

"In his statement this morning, the representative of the U.S.S.R. took the position that, before negotiations begin, it is necessary to reach agreement. That is the real meaning of his assertion that unless the UN General Assembly agrees on the basic principles of general and complete disarmament the cause of disarmament will not be benefited by the resumption of negotiations. In our view, the purpose of the negotiations is, in the first place, to find a basis for agreement and

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