

The sort of timing we envisage, therefore, is flexible as to its outcome. But what we have in mind is that if the procedure we suggest commends itself to this Committee, the general debate should be continued to give all countries which desire it an opportunity to express their views; and at the end of this period -- in a week or two -- the Committee, which after all need not now make final judgment on the various positions, should adopt the Canadian draft resolution to provide the appropriate machinery which we hope would lead to further progress. We would then anticipate that if enough delegations feel the matter is of sufficient importance, as we do, a plenary session of the General Assembly could be at once convened to consider and, I trust, to approve this draft resolution which this First Committee will have adopted.

Once this is done the Disarmament Commission could meet within a day or so to consider the recommendation and, I hope, to reconvene its Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee should then meet without any unnecessary delay, and detailed discussions should begin among its members.

As to the date of the Sub-Committee's report, which would of course be submitted through the proper channel of the Disarmament Commission, this would depend on the progress realized. Certainly my delegation will do everything that it can, if it is on the Sub-Committee, to avoid any unnecessary delay. If there is sufficient progress to warrant it, it will of course be appropriate to have a report back to the General Assembly during this session. If, on the other hand, the detailed negotiations are such that more time is required, then the Disarmament Commission can consider the Sub-Committee's report as soon as it is ready.

I think that this resolution to which we have given a good bit of thought and which stands in our name is sufficiently simple and straightforward so that I need not take the time of the Committee to explain in greater detail what is proposed. We have tried in this draft resolution to avoid asking the Assembly to take up a substantive position on the specific proposals of either side on questions where detailed clarification is still needed and where many difficulties are still to be resolved. We have tried to provide what seems to us the most effective machinery for future progress -- that is, the same machinery to which we owe the substantial progress which we have made since the last session of the General Assembly. We should not forget, I think, that it was precisely in the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission that there were worked out the significant advances in the Western position embodied in the Anglo-French memorandum, which the Soviet Union Government has now agreed to take as the basis for a convention.

I should point out that we take notice in our draft resolution not only of the Anglo-French proposals and of the report of the Disarmament Commission, but of the Soviet Union draft resolution.

I hope that the procedure we have been proposing will commend itself to the members of this Committee.