

Supply—External Affairs

Mr. Churchill: You would have to have the discussions before the conclusions.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes. We have asked China to join in supporting the nuclear test ban treaty which was solemnized in August a year and a half ago. The Chinese people's republic have refused to join the 107 nations who have acceded to this pact. I suggest that one of the first steps that the Chinese people's republic might take would be to readily accept the nuclear test ban treaty provisions, and this might well serve as a means of bringing that important country into the disarmament discussions. The conclusions of these discussions cannot be complete without the participation of a country of the importance of China.

Mr. Douglas: Could I ask the minister who invited mainland China to become a signatory to the test ban agreement?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): There was no invitation. Most of the nations which signed the pact urged China to join. In this house when we announced that we had signed the pact, I expressed the view, as I express it again, that since China had announced its intention to build up a nuclear capacity it should join the partial nuclear test ban group before it undertook to add to the contamination of the air by nuclear detonation.

China has said that she does not propose to join the nuclear test ban arrangement. She has called upon the nuclear powers to hold a world conference for the purpose of entering into an agreement for the prohibition of the manufacture of nuclear weapons. We believe that this is one phase of disarmament that ought to be discussed in the context of the wider agenda before the conference that has been under consideration in Geneva.

Finally, I think we should now recognize that we have to go one step further than the efforts which were made at the United Nations and elsewhere to try to achieve non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Canada was one of the countries which subscribed to the limited but important resolution introduced by Ireland at the general assembly in 1961. Canada is one of the countries that from the beginning has had a nuclear capacity. Canada, however, committed herself completely in 1946 to the use of this new found energy for peaceful purposes only.

There are some 20 countries in the world which have, in varying degrees, a nuclear capacity but are not now manufacturing nuclear weapons. It might be that it would be useful to suggest, as a contribution to the

[**Mr. Martin (Essex East).**]

non-proliferation of such weapons, that these countries, including Canada, should give further meaning to and strengthen the formula provided for in the Irish resolution. This is a matter that likewise is now being given consideration in some of the consultations we have had.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the minister would answer one question. Is Canada now actually engaged in negotiating itself out of the nuclear weapons field, as promised by the Prime Minister? Are negotiations actually taking place?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, we have dealt with that subject on other occasions, and I should like to complete my statement at this time.

All these important matters, and they are vital, affect us and every other country in the world now as perhaps they have not affected us for a long time. They arise at a time when we are concerned about the future of the United Nations itself. We have had questions asked from time to time on orders of the day about the financial situation of the United Nations. Canadian foreign policy is predicated upon support for the United Nations and for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. We take into account in the formulation of our policy our relations with the United States and our membership in the commonwealth. It must be obvious to everyone that while there is not at the moment a critical world situation, in the sense of one overwhelming issue which threatens the peace of the world by itself, there are a number of problems which have arisen, and I referred to one of them—the situation in NATO—which have caused great concern on the part of those who look forward to the establishment of conditions which will provide some guarantee for a more steady and certain peace.

One of these is the financial situation of the United Nations. The general assembly will open on December 1 next, at which time we will be confronted with the fact that a number of countries, including the Soviet union, are indebted to the organization in amounts greater than the assessments on those countries for the two previous years. This means that under article 19 of the charter that country and other countries in a similar position could lose the right to vote.

The Soviet union has said that it will not pay any money toward past peace keeping operations. The United States, for one, takes