

before the political negotiations had even begun, involved a group of experts from eight countries--not only from the three, but from eight countries--who eventually produced a set of agreed conclusions which greatly facilitated the work of the subsequent three-power conference.

From time to time, moreover, the three powers have had occasion to refer other problems to their technical experts, acting jointly, for scientific study. What I am suggesting is that the same sort of process could and should be applied to the technical problems involved in various disarmament measures.

As regards nuclear tests, I should like to place on record at this point the satisfaction of the Canadian Delegation that the three-power conference has continued in being and that the work on a draft treaty has progressed as far as it has. The Canadian Government has taken a clear position against further nuclear testing.

No Renewal of Tests

For this reason, we are gratified that the three nuclear powers unilaterally discontinued their tests during the negotiations. As we all know, no such tests are going on at the present time, and there has been none for nearly two years. We hope that this discontinuance will be enshrined in the treaty now being negotiated and that many other powers will accede to it once it has been concluded.

This much-needed example of international co-operation in an area in which all nations have a vital interest would constitute a valuable precedent for the establishment of verification procedures in the field of nuclear disarmament. We assume that the concern of the UN General Assembly about nuclear testing--and that will come up, of course, in the consideration of the Indian item on the agenda--will be expressed in such a way as to sustain the sense of urgency in reaching agreement on the remaining problems in the three-power negotiations.

Responsibility of Non-Nuclear Powers

It will be obvious from what I have said so far that the Canadian Delegation is determined to concentrate its efforts at this session on ideas and suggestions designed to restart the machinery of negotiation at the earliest possible opportunity and to facilitate progress in negotiations. We believe that the non-nuclear powers have a direct responsibility for urging that the search for agreement be pursued with the utmost vigour. We believe that the non-nuclear powers represented around this table must put the pressure on the nuclear powers to see that the search for agreement is not dropped but is continued with the utmost urgency, because the fate of the whole of humanity is at stake in this question. We are not here simply debating a theoretical point; we are debating the future of civilization--possibly whether there will be any future civilization or not--