



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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REVIVE DISARMAMENT TALKS

Statement to the United Nations
Disarmament Commission by Mr.
Howard C. Green, Secretary of State
for External Affairs of Canada,
August 16, 1960.

At the outset of my statement, may I express my great satisfaction that you have wisely decided to convene the Disarmament Commission at this time. It is the firm view of the Canadian Government that in the broad and complex field of disarmament the world is facing a very grave situation. The quickening pace of arms development, and especially of the means of delivering nuclear weapons, is producing risks and dangers which demand immediate attention, if we are to prevent a catastrophe in the world.

Moreover, the whole weight of public opinion in all countries has been thrown on the side of early and effective action on disarmament as a means of increasing international security, reducing international tension and incidentally easing the heavy burdens which preparations for defence have placed on all nations.

Responsibility

In the Canadian view, the responsibility of the United Nations and especially of the Disarmament Commission in this all-important field is clear. The Charter bears testimony to the United Nations primary interest in and responsibility for disarmament. This Commission at the present time is the United Nations instrument for exercising that responsibility. The fact that the members of the Disarmament Commission reflect virtually all shades of opinion in the world today qualifies it fully for that task.

Last year, especially after the unanimous adoption of the General Assembly resolution on disarmament, the Canadian Government looked hopefully to the 10-Nation Committee as a means of exploring every avenue of progress toward agreement on measures of disarmament.