

In addition, we must continue our idealistic approach to world affairs. Because the situation is serious is no excuse for Canadians to abandon the idealistic approach they have had down through their history. These attributes have been shown by Canadians for a long time. Such is our record, and this is what is expected of us now by all nations, including the nations in the Communist camp. A few weeks ago in Geneva, I had a brief talk with Mr. Gromyko, the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union. There was, of course, a certain amount of banter but finally he said: "I know that Canada stands for peace". That is our reputation in world affairs, and it is a very good reputation to have.

Factors in World Situation

Today I propose to deal with certain material factors in the present world situation. Ordinarily I would go on to cover various other subjects which probably are of equal importance, but I plan today to deal with the facts relative to the present serious situation and later during the discussion of the estimates I shall try to deal with these other subjects.

First of all let me deal with nuclear tests. The tremendous world interest in nuclear tests is because people are rightly afraid of the effects of radiation and fall-out. They remember what happened at Hiroshima and they know that the damage and destruction would be infinitely greater in a nuclear holocaust with the present hydrogen bombs. They are worried about the effect not only on themselves but on the generation to come.

For this reason, and also in the hope that an agreement to ban nuclear tests would be a long step toward a general disarmament agreement, the three nuclear powers, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union, decided nearly three years ago to try to work out a nuclear test ban agreement. France did not participate in that conference and, I think unfortunately, in the intervening period set off certain nuclear blasts, although the other three countries until last week maintained a moratorium on any further testing.

This conference held its 339th meeting this week and it meets again on Saturday, September 9, in Geneva. Up to the end of last year there had been great progress made in these negotiations. Scientists of the three countries had met and reported on various ways of checking tests, and the delegates had agreed to many paragraphs of a test-ban treaty. Incidentally, at the United Nations last year there were two resolutions passed dealing with the suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests. One of them contained the operative paragraph:

"Urges the states concerned in these negotiations --"

(The reference is to the negotiations at Geneva)

"-- to continue their present voluntary suspension of the testing of nuclear weapons."