

I offer these various suggestions in the hope that they may assist in the search for common ground. I repeat that the problem of composition is not so difficult that it need delay the resumption of negotiations. Whatever agreement may be reached, the fundamental point is not a question of numbers but of determination to get on with the job of actual negotiations. By unanimously adopting resolution A/C.1/L.299, to which I have already referred, and which was sponsored by India, Ghana and the United Arab Republic, we have urged the United States and the Soviet Union to agree on the question of composition. The attention of all members of this Committee is focused on the talks between those two countries. We are united in the hope that the United States and the Soviet Union will soon be able to report agreement on this question of composition. I think it is perfectly clear that the responsibility for the next move rests with these two great powers, the United States and the Soviet Union, and I most honestly plead with them that they reach agreement quickly on a forum in which these negotiations could be carried on.

The resumption of negotiations in a suitable forum would constitute only the first step, of course, on the road to disarmament. A full range of measures that will require negotiation is dealt with in the detailed proposals which have been put forward by the two sides; and we are in the position that both sides have already put in their disarmament proposals.

A Major Development

I believe that one major development since disarmament was discussed in the last session of the General Assembly has been the preparation of a new disarmament programme, submitted to the Assembly by the President of the United States on 25 September. Canada participated throughout in the preparation of that disarmament plan and it has our full support.

The first stage of these new proposals contains far-reaching measures of disarmament. This is an important advance. From the outset, under those proposals, provision is made for extensive reductions of nuclear armaments and their means of delivery. Canada attaches the greatest importance to provisions to deal effectively with these most dangerous modern nuclear weapons. There are, of course, parallel measures for the reduction of so-called conventional armaments, and they are equally significant if the principle of balance between the two great powers is to be maintained.

In addition to providing for significant measures at the earliest possible time, these new proposals accept without reservation the commitment to continue until a total programme of general disarmament has been achieved; in other words, to guard against this starting and stopping and provide for steady continuation of the negotiations. The need for a commitment of that kind was emphasized in the statement of