

certain types of medium-range bombers, specialized for the delivery of nuclear weapons, should be destroyed in equal numbers by the United States and by the Soviet Union. This proposal would have the advantage that the control over its execution would not have presented any threat to the security of either side. It also would have shown the world that the great powers were serious in their intention to eliminate some of the most dangerous weapons.

The Soviet Union countered this proposal of the United States by proposing that not only certain selected types of bombers should be destroyed but also all bombers. This was found to be too drastic a measure by the United States and other delegations. Western representatives nevertheless intimated that they were ready to continue discussion about the possibility of the balanced destruction of certain types of nuclear-weapons vehicles. It seems to the Canadian delegation that negotiations on this proposal, which has been advanced by both sides, but with differing content, should continue and that, given the will by both sides to agree, there could be a beginning of real disarmament. In the jargon of disarmament, this proposal has been nicknamed the "bomber bonfire".

It was pointed out in the discussions in the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee on this subject that the destruction of some bombers or other means of delivering nuclear weapons would not be significant if these were to be replaced with other and perhaps more modern and powerful means of delivery. This would indicate that the "freeze" or prohibition of construction of certain of the more significant means of delivery of nuclear weapons would be a logical extension and complement of the "bomber bonfire". The proposals of President Johnson included such a freeze. The after hearing the explanation by the United States delegation in Geneva, such a character as would not involve widespread intrusive inspection, the fear of which gave rise to objections by the Soviet Union. These objections up to now have prevented serious discussion of this project.

This morning, the proposal for a "freeze" was criticized by the representative of the Soviet Union on the grounds that it would have involved some control, some verification measures and would not have been a measure of disarmament. However, it would have been surely a measure for the limitation of the arms race, and that is one of the objects which all of the list of measures which was presented by the Soviet delegation is supposed to attain. I read out the title:

"Memorandum by the Soviet Government on Measures for the Further Reduction of International Tension and Limitation of the Arms Race". (DC/213/Add.2).

Stopping the construction of the most expensive and powerful means of delivering nuclear weapons would surely be a limitation of the arms race.