



Bulletin

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WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

The following is a statement made in the General Assembly of the United Nations by Mr. George Ignatieff, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, on November 17:

I do not believe it is necessary to repeat at this time the high importance which the Canadian delegation places on disarmament. Our contribution to disarmament negotiations over the years speaks for itself. The issue in this debate is not whether to disarm, nor how to disarm, but how best to discuss disarmament.

None would surely wish any of the avenues of disarmament to be left unused, still less, unexplored. In this spirit, my delegation welcomes the impetus which has been given to us by the Soviet delegation to think once again about the available ways of concentrating world attention on this problem. But it seems to us that this or any proposal for a new form of disarmament discussions which would lead to negotiations must be judged in the light of the

effect - positive or negative - it may have on the totality of efforts to stop the arms race. My delegation would like to suggest that this Assembly give careful thought to three points:

First, the appropriateness of considering the broad impact and implications of the disarmament issues now before the UN General Assembly in a world forum in addition to the negotiations on specific issues at Geneva;

Second, the importance, long-maintained by Canada, of associating all principal military powers with disarmament negotiations; and

Third, the importance that any world disarmament conference should be properly prepared through prior consultations, if it is to achieve the purpose of acting as a catalyst to further progress on disarmament, rather than adding to the confusion.

There is no doubt that the introduction into the arms race of weapons of mass destruction, whose use might lead to a world catastrophe, has made disarmament a matter of vital concern to all mankind. This danger was recognized at the dawn of the atomic age when the Prime Minister of Canada joined the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in calling upon the United Nations to take effective measures to ensure that this new force of atomic energy would be used for peaceful purposes only. The Soviet Union was also one of the sponsors of this earliest effort to involve the world body in the search for disarmament. Ever since then Canada has been associated with virtually every initiative on disarmament in the framework of the United Nations. The Canadian delegation believes that any world disarmament conference should be part of the continuing disarmament effort pursued through this world organization - all the more so since the United Nations has recently taken its important decision towards universality by its decision on the representation of the People's Republic of China. It should also be recalled that the United Nations

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