

they should be continued in a constructive spirit and business-like manner. Canada and the U.S.S.R. reaffirmed their readiness to contribute to the successful conclusion of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe as soon as possible, and expressed their wish that the conference would attain the goal of strengthening peace and security and extending co-operation and contacts between people in Europe. They believe that successful completion of the second stage of the conference should make possible the holding of its final stage at a very high level.

Both sides noted with satisfaction the opening in Vienna on October 30 of the negotiations on mutual reduction of forces and armaments and associated measures in Central Europe. They agreed that these negotiations constituted an important element in the continuing process of relaxation of tension and increasing co-operation in Europe. They believe that the indispensable condition for obtaining mutually acceptable decisions in these negotiations is to observe strictly the principle of ensuring undiminished security for all participating countries.

Both sides confirmed their support for the objective of achieving general and complete disarmament covering both nuclear and conventional weapons, under strict and effective international control. They consider it necessary that further practical steps should be taken to end the arms race and to achieve disarmament, particularly in regard to weapons of mass destruction -- nuclear, bacteriological and chemical. Among important achievements in this regard are the treaty banning nuclear weaponstests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water, the prohibition on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the convention on the prohibition of production, development and stockpiling of bacteriological (biological) weapons and toxins and their destruction. Canada and the U.S.S.R. fully support efforts taken by the Committee on Disarmament to seek early agreement on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction. It is the intention of both sides to continue furthering the adoption of other partial disarmament measures. They were agreed that the convening of a world conference on disarmament at the appropriate time would be useful in the consideration of questions of disarmament in their entirety.

In the course of the discussions there was a constructive exchange of views on a proposal put forward in the United Nations by the U.S.S.R. for a ten percent reduction of military budgets of permanent members of the Security Council of the United Nations and for using a portion of the savings to assist developing countries.

With respect to the situation in the Middle East, satisfaction was expressed over the cease-fire and cessation of military operations in this area. The ministers expressed the determination of Canada and the U.S.S.R. to promote, together with other countries, the establishment of a lasting and just peace in the Middle East on the basis of a prompt, immediate and consistent fulfilment by all sides participating in the conflict; of the appropriate resolutions adopted by the Security Council of the United Nations, namely, 242 of 1967, and 338, 339 and 340 of 1973.