

largely a matter of bargaining among three great powers, but the eight non-aligned members of the Committee were able to make a notable contribution by exerting their influence to reduce areas of difference. While the basic agreement needed for bringing about a programme of controlled disarmament will be the result of detailed negotiations between the powers principally affected, those negotiations are bound to be influenced by the views of a large number of other powers which have vital interests at stake.

Broadly speaking, this explains how the United Nations now enters the disarmament picture. Recent debates in the General Assembly on disarmament have been designed primarily to encourage the Eighteen-Nation Committee, and particularly the great powers, to persist in their efforts to find a widening area of agreement. At some stage, the United Nations may be required to take specific action in relation to the disarmament programme, partly because of the requirement for international verification but, more importantly, because it is now generally accepted that, to be successful, disarmament must be accompanied by the development of effective methods for keeping the peace.

Closely related to disarmament has been the question of nuclear-weapons tests. The General Assembly warmly welcomed the test-ban treaty, which prohibits nuclear-weapons tests in outer space, in the atmosphere and under water. Although the treaty was concluded by the three nuclear powers, other states were invited to adhere to it and more than 100 have already done so. The treaty was largely the product of traditional diplomacy, but the United Nations can claim to have made some contribution in the sense that for several years the General Assembly has adopted heavily-supported resolutions calling for a ban on all tests.

The treaty banning tests in the three environments has served to reduce world anxiety not only about the nuclear arms race but also about the hazards of polluting the atmosphere with radioactive fallout. While fallout may continue for some time because of the delayed effects of testing in 1962, it will be gradually eliminated. As a consequence, in 1963 the General Assembly was able to concentrate its attention on the continuing need for research concerning radiation hazards. As well, the improvement in relations between the United States and the Soviet Union showed signs of producing more co-operation in planning for the exploration and use of outer space. It set the stage for the declaratory prohibition on the placing of mass-destruction weapons in outer space which was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly in October. A modest beginning was made, both in technical co-operation and in the development of outer-space law, in the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the proceedings of which had previously stalled because of sharp differences between the United States and the Soviet Union. Some degree of co-ordination has also been reflected in the programmes of the Specialized Agencies engaging in space research.