

Last August, the United States presented to the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee a draft treaty designed to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. Canada had a share in the preparation of this document. We hope that the submission of this treaty, which had been called for by many non-aligned nations, would open the way to progress, but we were disappointed. I listened with great care a few moments ago to what the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union had to say on this point. I should point out that the Soviet Union refused to discuss the draft treaty and has sought to place the onus for its refusal on members of the North Atlantic Alliance. This position of the Soviet Union does not seem to me to be a reasonable one. While the European members of the North Atlantic Alliance are under threat of potential nuclear attack themselves, it cannot be argued that they should have no right to participate in decisions on how such an attack is to be deterred.

It has been made clear by the representatives of non-aligned nations in the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee that the world cannot be permanently divided into nuclear and non-nuclear states. Why, it is asked, should states which do not now have nuclear weapons give up in perpetuity their sovereign right to take such action as may be necessary in order to preserve their national security, if the nuclear powers do not begin to exercise restraint in the manufacture of nuclear weapons and their vehicles, to reduce their stockpiles and thus embark on a course leading to general disarmament? I think that the proposal made yesterday by Mr. Goldberg, the representative of the United States in the United Nations, is one that will be carefully studied and I hope that it will produce a corresponding agreement. While agreement on non-dissemination should not wait on such action by the nuclear powers, it cannot long be maintained unless the great powers begin to reduce their nuclear armaments.

It is of cardinal importance to press vigorously for the extension of the partial nuclear test-ban treaty to cover nuclear tests underground. From the outset Canada has consistently supported moves to ban the testing of all nuclear weapons, subject to arrangements for effective verification. We shall continue to support sensible proposals leading to the attainment of this important policy objective. Important advances have been made in recent years in the detection of underground events by seismic methods. Some progress has also been made in distinguishing between the seismic waves caused by earthquakes and other events and those caused by nuclear explosions underground. This field -- the detection and identification of seismic waves transmitted through the earth's crust -- is one in which Canada has a special interest. Because of our geographical position, favourable rock formations and seismic detection facilities, Canadian scientists are in a position to make a positive contribution to experimental work which, after further investigation and study, may create the conditions for progress towards a treaty which would prohibit nuclear tests underground.

At the recent session of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee, Sweden and other countries made important suggestions for international co-operation looking to further progress in the field of verification. In Canada's view these proposals deserve serious consideration and study. The Canadian Government is willing to join with other nations in international efforts linked in an appropriate way with the United Nations to help to achieve a comprehensive nuclear test ban.