

To underline the urgency of its initial work, assisting the resumption of negotiations, it is proposed that the *ad hoc* committee be set up at once and report back to the Disarmament Commission not later than April 1. This will afford time to explore the possibilities for renewed negotiations and perhaps to make suggestions for bringing them about. It is surely not too much to hope that the nuclear powers will even now be giving thought to the resumption of disarmament talks.

In any event, we are seeking to ensure that these matters are kept under close scrutiny by an appropriate United Nations body. My Delegation considers that this feature of our joint proposals merits the support of the vast majority of members of this Committee. The many expressions of anxiety and concern we have heard at this session have persuaded us that the non-nuclear powers are no longer content to sit by passively, as was the case from 1957 to 1959, while the nuclear powers allow disarmament issues to remain in deadlock, without any effort to resume negotiations.

I have touched upon the main features of the joint draft resolution now before the Committee. I believe that it is neither incompatible with, nor in competition with, any of the other proposals which have been made.

Our resolution is clearly complementary, for example, to the sincere efforts being made to resolve the important question of principles. It provides only that the *ad hoc* committee examine the record as regards principles with a view to assisting the resumption of negotiations. If some agreement on principles can be reached in the First Committee, this task of the *ad hoc* committee will be made more easy, but there will remain other questions for its consideration.

The draft resolution adopts a similar approach to the many useful suggestions member delegations have made during the course of our debate. It provides that these should be studied, as part of the examination of ways and means of assisting the resumption of serious negotiations and facilitating the attainment of disarmament.

If at any stage of their work the *ad hoc* committee should find that they would benefit from having expert advice or opinions, the committee could call in experts whose main qualifications would be their technical competence in the field of disarmament. Provision is made in the resolution for having the "assistance of experts as appropriate."

In preparing our text, the co-sponsors have had the benefit of many helpful comments made both in Committee and in private. We hope we have succeeded in reflecting the strong desire, expressed by the majority of delegations, that something be done to get disarmament negotiations moving.

The Canadian Delegation earnestly commends the proposals in the draft resolution as the best means for achieving that end. If the Committee sees fit to endorse these proposals the possibility of achievement will be greatly enhanced.