

come into the possession of a wider circle of countries. This is surely an outcome which all countries, whether or not they possess nuclear weapons themselves, deeply desire to avoid. While we may not see eye-to-eye on the exact nature of the arrangements that should be concluded, we all possess a common interest and recognize a common goal.

In the opinion of my Delegation, the approach which offers the best prospect for agreement is to base the work of this Committee on the recommendations set forth in the Irish resolution. It should be possible to negotiate, within a relatively short period, an effective and lasting ordinance which would ensure no further expansion of the nuclear club. My Government holds firmly to this objective and the Canadian Delegation will exert every effort to facilitate its realization.

#### Accidental War Hazard

The other item which is under discussion in the Committee of the Whole (namely measures to prevent the risk of accidental war) also deals with an urgent problem on which we could reasonably plan to report some agreed measures to the coming General Assembly. The risk of accidental war cannot fail to grow more serious as weapons of ever greater power and complexity are developed. The United States has made several specific proposals designed to deal with this problem and the U.S.S.R., when this Conference resumed, submitted suggestions which in many respects are very similar. We welcome the recognition by the U.S.S.R. that it would be desirable to adopt measures in this field. Like other members who have spoken on this subject, I hope that it will be possible to work out agreed arrangements of this type which could take effect as initial measures without awaiting the completion of our negotiations on the whole programme of general disarmament.

The Canadian Delegation is gratified that both sides recognize the value to be derived from such confidence-building measures as the advance notification of military movements, the exchange of military missions and the improvement of direct communications between heads of state and with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Let us now get down to a thorough discussion of these questions and work out practical arrangements that could diminish mutual suspicion and reduce the possibility of a calamity both sides wish to avoid. I am convinced that early agreement in this area is feasible and would provide a striking demonstration that our Conference is making a serious attempt to resolve problems which are of deep concern to people everywhere in the world.

I would also recall that I suggested here last March that outer space be considered by the Committee of the Whole as a collateral measure. However, the co-chairmen have not yet agreed to place this item on the agenda for consideration by the Committee of the Whole. I hope that in the near future the question of banning weapons of mass destruction in outer space will receive the detailed examination it warrants.