

I need hardly recall for the information of the House the breakdown of the negotiations that were carried on through the Subcommittee of the Commission on Disarmament established by the United Nations. France, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada put forward certain proposals on August 29 of last year. They appeared to be a package deal, if I can use that expression. Since the time negotiations broke down, the Russians having flatly rejected the proposals, the countries of the West including Canada have been endeavouring to make clear that those proposals of August 29, 1957, were merely put forward as a basis of discussion. Indeed the Prime Minister in the General Assembly last year and I myself in the political Committee of the United Nations and in the General Assembly urged that the Russians look at those proposals as being flexible. But that situation was not accepted by the U.S.S.R., and little if anything has been done within the United Nations since last autumn with respect to disarmament.

However, there have been some encouraging signs recently of a resumption of negotiations. We were all gratified that President Eisenhower felt it possible to make a suggestion with respect to one kind of disarmament or with respect to certain measures that could lead to one kind of disarmament, and he put those forward to Mr. Khrushchev. We are gratified and encouraged to hear that Mr. Khrushchev has accepted the proposal to establish a technical group for the purpose of examining the possibility of providing adequate supervision and control of nuclear tests and methods for the detection of nuclear tests.

The discussions began in Geneva on July 1 of this year with respect to the scientific problems involved. Even if I knew what had been happening at those discussions I would not understand the scientific problems, but I can say it is authoritatively reported that the talks between the scientists are making headway in an encouraging manner. Without attempting to predict the final outcome of this scientific conference, I am confident that significant findings will be made by this technical group. Canada, as the House knows, is represented there by Dr. O.M. Solandt who has associated with him four other Canadian scientists. The other Canadians are Mr. N. Larnder and Mr. A.K. Longair of the Defence Research Board, Dr. P.L. Willmore of the Dominion Observatory and Professor G.M. Volkoff of the University of British Columbia.

The Government has held the view that after the findings of this group are made known, in which findings we feel confidence could be placed, a method might be arrived at by which to detect nuclear tests, and then the countries carrying on such tests might then come