

We think that everyone recognizes that to advance towards general and complete disarmament and to get agreement on measures preliminary to disarmament which could reduce tension and the danger of nuclear war will require intense effort and the most painstaking negotiations. Canada maintains the view that the best place for detailed and comprehensive negotiations on a disarmament programme is the conference of the 18-Nation Committee on Disarmament.

Role of Non-Aligned

The 18-Nation Committee on Disarmament, endorsed by Resolution 1722 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, is, in our view, well suited to the tasks. The conference has several advantages as a negotiating forum. I refer, as so many others have done, to the role of the eight non-aligned countries: Brazil, Burma, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Sweden and the United Arab Republic. The representative of the United Arab Republic, in his statement in this Committee on 5 November (and we are very much in agreement with what he said) has shown that many changes in both plans were made in response to questions and suggestions of the non-aligned members of the Committee. The presence of these countries in the 18-Nation Committee has made it representative of all major geographical areas of the world. Their active participation in the conference is a constant reminder that disarmament is not the concern of the great powers alone, but of all countries, large and small.

The conference of the 18-Nation Committee has also developed procedures and working methods which are appropriate to its task. It has as its permanent co-chairmen representatives of the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, who have actively co-operated in organizing and forwarding the work of the conference. The conference moved from a rather formal examination of treaty texts in its earlier stages to one of detailed exploration of some of the most difficult problems in the disarmament field. The Canadian Delegation is confident that the 18-Nation Committee, with its improving techniques for comprehensive discussion and negotiations, can, when it returns to its task, succeed not only in bringing the sides closer together but also in achieving a programme for total disarmament.

Collateral Measures Committee

I should like to discuss another important aspect of the 18-Nation Committee -- the work of the Committee of the Whole, sometimes called the Collateral Measures Committee. This Committee, which was set up to deal with measures which are closely related to disarmament and which could come into effect quickly, could help to relieve international tensions and thereby facilitate agreement on general and complete disarmament. The Collateral Measures Committee has two questions on its agenda for immediate consideration: first, measures to prevent the further dissemination of nuclear weapons, and second, reduction of the possibility of war by accident, miscalculation or failure of communications. The recent world crisis has shown us very clearly how vital it is to achieve progress in these two fields.