

Minister of Great Britain and the President of the United States we read the following sentences:

"The United States and the United Kingdom cannot emphasize too strongly the urgency we attach to the problem of ending all nuclear testing once and for all. For the safety and security of all of us, this deadly competition must be halted and we, again, urge the Soviet government to join with us in meaningful action to make this necessity a reality."

The chairman of the council of ministers of the U.S.S.R. has been equally firm in spelling out the grave consequences of continued testing. In a letter addressed by him to Prime Minister Macmillan in April of this year he wrote as follows:

"Throughout the world the people are justly expressing their indignation not only because nuclear tests lead to the fouling of the atmosphere and may in some degree have a harmful effect on peoples' health and their moral and physical condition, but also—and this is the most important point—because the race to build up nuclear weapons will be accelerated even more by the new series of experimental nuclear explosions."

Clearly then the dangers of further experimentation in this field are admitted. It may have grave effects both on our own health and on future generations; it is ultimately a threat to the security of mankind; it increases international tensions and reduces the possibility of agreements in other fields. If this is the belief of the leading statesmen of the nuclear powers, why can they not stop the tests? But it is not only the responsibility of the nuclear powers; nuclear testing affects all nations; to deal with it is the responsibility of all of us represented here. Can we not, as rational beings, act in our own interest?

The advantages of a test cessation agreement are many. Such an agreement would not give a special advantage to this or that country or alliance, but would be in the interest of all humanity. Let me summarize the truly impressive gains which a nuclear test ban agreement would achieve:

First, as the major powers themselves recognize, it would significantly reduce radiation hazards and improve international security.

Second, it would inhibit the development of more and more destructive nuclear weapons.

Third, it would arrest the development of nuclear weapons by an increasing number of nations, a danger whose gravity can be recognized by all, and one may say, especially by the present nuclear powers.

Fourth, it would be a start on disarmament. My delegation entirely endorses the view expressed by the acting secretary general in

the introduction to his annual report, in which he emphasized that the first step toward disarmament is to stop nuclear testing. We share his sincere hope "that the nuclear powers will realize that the whole world is hoping and praying than an agreed first step may be taken soon".

In short, an agreement to end nuclear weapons tests would be a first clear proof that the many declarations by the great powers that they want to end the arms race are not mere words, but will result in real and effective action.

I have reviewed so far the weighty reasons in favour of putting a stop to nuclear tests. In my opinion these factors, taken together, should convince every rational man that the need for a solution is urgent. It remains, however, to devise practical means of achieving this goal. In recent months several suggestions have been made which, my delegation believes, should be endorsed by this assembly.

In the first place, we strongly support the proposal put forward in the eighteen nation committee for an early cut-off date by which all testing would be ended: January 1, 1963 or, we would hope, earlier. Acceptance by this assembly of a target date should provide added incentive to speedily resolve remaining differences.

Second, Canada endorses the proposal for an immediate ban on all testing in the atmosphere, outer space, and underwater. Such a proposal is common to the draft treaties advanced by both sides, and an agreement would be a substantial step in the direction of a comprehensive ban. It would greatly reduce or even remove the health hazard resulting from nuclear testing. Moreover, differences over inspection do not constitute a barrier to agreement in this field.

Third, my delegation wishes to underline the importance we attach to the contribution of the eight unaligned nations represented at the Geneva negotiations in putting forward compromise proposals on a verification system. The Canadian delegation has taken the stand at the eighteen nation conference—and we reaffirm it now—that the eight nation proposals provide a sound basis for an agreement satisfactory to all concerned. A system based on existing national networks of observation posts with new posts if necessary; an international scientific commission to process and examine data from these stations; and the obligation of states parties to the agreement to furnish the facts necessary to establish the nature of any suspicious event on their territory—these are the main elements of the eight nation proposal which we believe should be incorporated, without further delay, in a draft treaty for ending all nuclear tests.