

Mr. Nilsson went on to mention the Swedish proposal for the establishing of a world-wide surveillance system to ensure that a prohibition of all forms of nuclear testing was being observed. It would mean establishing a network of technologically-advanced seismological stations. Canada believes that this proposal may help the nuclear powers move towards closing of the gap which still prevents their agreement on a ban on underground testing. Canada is most willing to participate in discussions on the formation of the Swedish-inspired "detection club".

Having reviewed briefly, and perhaps with certain gaps in the picture, the present status of disarmament negotiations which have been in progress in the ENDC and the United Nations during the last four years, we should now like to say a few words about the proposal for a World Disarmament Conference, one of the items on the agenda of this Committee to which many of the members attach high importance. The Canadian Delegation, as I said during the discussion on the order of business, favours the holding of a World Disarmament Conference under certain conditions.

It is self-evident that for disarmament to be general and complete, which is the goal this Assembly has agreed upon in Resolution 1378 (XIV) and reaffirmed several times since, all nuclear powers and potential nuclear powers must take part at an appropriate stage in the negotiations. I recall the words of the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs in the General Assembly on 24 September, when he said:

"... Canada hopes that the People's Republic of China will be invited to take part in the discussions." (A/PV.1335, Pages 48-50).

The World Disarmament Conference may serve to bring this about. It is also evident that there are many difficult problems in convening such a conference. We ought to think these problems through, in discussion in this Committee and in private consultations between interested delegations, before the General Assembly takes the final action for this year by resolution. The problems include: (a) under whose auspices will the conference be held; (b) who will issue the invitations; (c) how will it be financed; (d) what is the agenda to be; (e) can there be prior agreement on the principles to serve as a basis of discussion; (f) can procedural rules be agreed to; (g) when and where will the conference be held. Unless this Committee can establish a substantial measure of agreement on these points, the prospects for holding a successful conference would appear to be very uncertain.

To repeat, what we have to do in considering this proposal for a World Disarmament Conference is to think through clearly what we hope it will accomplish -- not setting our sights too high -- and make it clear what we think its agenda should be. It would be in the highest degree irresponsible if we should allow ourselves to be deluded by the idea that, as the United Nations and the ENDC have failed to make any progress since the Moscow Treaty and other partial measures of 1963, there is nothing to do now but pass a resolution calling for a World Disarmament Conference, and think nothing more need be done about disarmament until that Conference is held.