

from the nuclear powers against nuclear blackmail. Finally, he expressed the hope that an equitable safeguards formula, acceptable to all interested parties, could soon be agreed upon.

Mr. Martin also called the attention of the General Assembly to the Secretary-General's Report on Nuclear Weapons and issued an appeal to the suppliers and recipients of conventional arms to exercise restraint, lest serious arms imbalances in areas of tension lead to hostilities. In closing, he noted with regret that the Soviet Union had already begun to deploy an anti-ballistic-missile system, while the United States had announced its intention to do likewise. Representing a country with a history of interest and participation in efforts toward nuclear-arms control and disarmament, Mr. Martin appealed to both the nuclear super-powers to pursue their efforts to reach agreement on limiting offensive and defensive strategic nuclear-weapons systems, in particular anti-ballistic missile systems.

#### **Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America**

Of the disarmament items, the Political Committee turned its attention first to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America. A number of Latin American and Caribbean states introduced a draft resolution setting out the aims and objectives of the Treaty, calling on member states to respect the non-nuclear status of the area and requesting those states that were or might become signatories of the Treaty and its two protocols to take all measures to ensure that the Treaty speedily obtained the widest application among them. However, Guyana complained that, under Article 25 and an associated resolution relating to territorial disputes, it was barred from acceding to the Treaty. A compromise was finally worked out with the insertion of a preambular paragraph noting the intent of signatories that all existing states within the zone should be able to accede to the Treaty without restrictions. With this amendment, Resolution 2286 was passed in plenary by a vote of 82 (Canada) in favour, none against, with 28 abstentions (most European Communist states, Cuba, France, Guyana and a number of African states).

#### **Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons**

The next disarmament item to be considered was the question of a convention for the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, inscribed at the request of the U.S.S.R. No change in traditional positions was indicated during the debate on this subject. The U.S.S.R. and its allies promoted the idea of a convention as a measure designed to contribute towards the outlawing of nuclear war. Western states were sceptical about this idea, and argued that an unverified convention was an ineffective and misleading approach to the problem of preventing nuclear war. Canada and others maintained that measures leading to actual reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear armaments were the only real way of achieving the desired security. A number of non-