

Final Treaty

It is common to both the Western and Eastern plans that to achieve general and complete disarmament, all the nations of the world must adhere to the treaty, and be bound by its terms. Of course, they must have the right to participate in the framing of the final treaty. In order that they may do so, it is agreed that a world conference should be convened for that purpose. The West has now proposed in the latest plan that after agreement on the first stage of disarmament among the 10-Nations, a draft treaty covering the second and third stages should be prepared, to be submitted to this world conference.

Once again, it would seem that the remaining difference of positions about how to prepare the international instrument or instruments which will register the obligation of the nations of the world to disarm is not such as to prevent agreement, after further negotiations, provided they are undertaken in a spirit of goodwill.

It has not been my intention to review the whole course of the negotiations in the 10-Nation Committee. Nor have I sought to attach blame unduly to one side or the other for the failure to make the kind of progress, which I think the present world situation demands. I hope that all members of this Disarmament Commission will share my great concern about the fact that these most important negotiations have been interrupted and will give their full support to a clear recommendation calling for the early resumption of those negotiations.

The Disarmament Commission is competent to exercise United Nations responsibility in this regard and to use its influence in the constructive sense I have suggested. I firmly believe that the Commission should neither hesitate nor equivocate in calling for resumed negotiations.

I have an additional suggestion to make which may make it easier for both sides to resume negotiations. In my view the 10-Nation Committee might benefit from having a neutral chairman who could regularize the order of business, especially when the two sides were deadlocked in this regard. It might be difficult to reach agreement on the appointment of such a chairman but one possibility would be to have him designated by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the powers concerned.

Mr. Chairman, geographically Canada lies between the two leading nuclear powers--United States and the Soviet Union. We are bound to suffer terribly in a nuclear war and we believe that many other nations would suffer as well, if not by direct destruction, then by the effects of fallout. If the