

Controls over Peaceful Transfer

My country, as one of the states with a highly-developed atomic industry, is particularly interested in another of President Johnson's proposals, which is related to non-dissemination, and that is the application of appropriate safeguards over transfers for peaceful uses of fissile materials and related equipment. This is a question of special concern to us, since we have been actively associated recently in a number of important projects to assist other countries in the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Therefore we warmly welcome the progressive development of the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguard system and have been greatly heartened by the growing co-operation which has taken place in the extension of an effective safeguard system. In this context, we believe that the recent proposals of the United States Government, involving as they do the progressive acceptance by the developed nuclear powers of safeguards, are a great step forward. The application of such safeguards would yield experience highly relevant to the problems of controlling nuclear disarmament. Therefore it is a matter of concern to this Committee that it deserves its close attention.

Observation Posts

I listened with great interest this morning, as I am sure we all did, to what Mr. Thomas said on the subject of observation posts, and we shall look upon the paper which is an annex to his interesting statement as a positive contribution on this particular subject. We welcome the presentation of the working paper because we think it will assist the Committee in focussing its discussion both on how a system of observation posts could lessen the danger of surprise attack and on the practical problems involved in the establishment of such a system. The representative of Nigeria pointed out recently that measures to prevent the risk of war (although both sides have made proposals in this regard) have not yet received the attention which he thought they deserved at this session of the Eighteen-Nation Committee. With the submission of the United Kingdom report, the Canadian delegation looks forward to the opening now of constructive discussion on this subject, both at the co-Chairmen's meetings and in the Conference. Since both the Soviet Union and the Western powers have made suggestions with respect to observation posts in the context of measures to reduce the danger of war, this subject seems to us a promising collateral measure for discussion at this time, and, as so many delegations observed at the last session of the General Assembly we hoped — and I continue to hope — that we shall reach agreement on this subject before too much time has expired. A system of observation posts, by providing assurance against surprise attack, would in the Canadian view result in a significant decrease in East-West tension. Canada believes that the establishment of an appropriate system of such posts would lead to progress in disarmament negotiations, and, indeed, perhaps to progress on the main political problems dividing East and West.

Adequate Peace-Keeping Machinery

There is one other subject that I should like to mention. It is the development of adequate peace-keeping machinery. I do not think I need to remind the members of this Committee of the importance which my country attaches to this subject. Canada, as is known, has recently been intimately associated with the problems of United Nations peace keeping, as a result of the tragic happenings