

Disarmament Report ⁽¹⁾

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SIX ARMS-CONTROL and disarmament subjects were discussed by the First (Political) Committee at the twenty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly, which met from September to December 1966. Of these, four originated with the report of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee, namely the items on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (Item 26), general and complete disarmament (Item 27), the suspension of nuclear tests (Item 28), and the question of convening a conference on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons (Item 29). Just before the session began, the U.S.S.R. requested the inscription of two further items: the renunciation by states of actions hampering the conclusion of an agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (Item 97), and the elimination of foreign bases in Asia, Africa and Latin America (Item 98). While all six topics were discussed, the two items on non-proliferation and the one on general and complete disarmament absorbed the greater portion of the Committee's time.

On September 23, Canadian disarmament policy was outlined in a statement by the Honourable Paul Martin, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, in the course of the general debate. Mr. Martin stressed that "there is no cause more urgent than to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons". "No single measure, however, will provide a solution," he added. "A series of measures directed to various facets of the issue will be required." He went on to enumerate the following measures:

- (1) A non-proliferation treaty that would prevent nuclear weapons from passing into control of additional states or groups of countries;
- (2) as a corollary to a treaty, the extension of security assurances to non-nuclear states against nuclear attack;
- (3) some means of verification of a treaty, such as the application of International Atomic Energy Agency or equivalent international safeguards to all international transfers of nuclear materials and equipment for peaceful purposes;
- (4) a treaty banning nuclear tests in all environments;
- (5) the establishment of nuclear-free zones in Africa, Latin America and other areas where conditions are appropriate;
- (6) the participation of all the principal world powers in disarmament discussions; and
- (7) a comprehensive study by the United Nations of the consequences of the invention of nuclear weapons.

(1) See also the article entitled "Canadian Statement on Disarmament", *External Affairs*, December 1966, pp. 577-582.