

I believe that there will continue to be a need for peace-keeping operations in the foreseeable future. I say this because we have witnessed great political and social changes in our world which will take time to work themselves out and which cannot be counted upon to do so without some element of upheaval. Meanwhile, there is an obligation which the Charter places upon us to settle our disputes by peaceful means and to refrain from the threat or use of force against one another. We also have an obligation to carry forward our pursuit of peace and security by working towards our agreed objective of general and complete disarmament.

Limiting Spread of Nuclear Arms

The events of the past few months have made it clear that the central issue in the disarmament field at this Assembly is the need to limit the spread of nuclear weapons. When I speak in terms of events of the past few months, I have naturally in mind the nuclear test conducted by Communist China on October 16. We deeply regret that the Chinese Communist Government should have chosen to disregard world opinion in such deliberate fashion. We also look upon this development as profoundly disquieting for the future. If it does nothing else, I would hope that it will impart fresh urgency to our efforts to reach agreement to limit the spread of independent military nuclear capability.

The nuclear test-ban treaty is, for the time being, the only international instrument inhibiting an expansion of the number of nuclear powers. The Canadian position has been that nuclear and non-nuclear powers should be bound reciprocally in an undertaking to prevent the dissemination of nuclear weapons. The need for such agreement is greater now that the number of nuclear powers has increased. It is no longer sufficient to depend on the restraining of the nuclear powers themselves. What is now required is the elaboration of an international agreement or agreements by which the nuclear states would undertake not to relinquish control of nuclear weapons or to transmit the information necessary for their manufacture to states not possessing such weapons, while the non-nuclear states, for their part, would pledge themselves not to manufacture or otherwise acquire control of nuclear weapons. In the Canadian view, an agreement on these lines would have a significant contribution to make to the enlargement of world peace and security.

Canada has been in the forefront of the development of nuclear energy. The manufacture of nuclear weapons has long been within our technical capability. It has, however, been the deliberate policy of successive Canadian Governments to refrain from exercising that capability and to concentrate on the peaceful uses of the atom. That remains the position of Canada. There are other nations — notably India — which, though within range of a nuclear capability, have taken the same position of self-denial. We believe that this is the position best calculated to advance the cause of peace.

I have been speaking so far about the part the United Nations has played and must continue to play in the enlargement of world peace and security. Let me now