

Now then you say, what about the production of fissile material for weapons? I think that was one of the questions asked. I would think that a major course leading to disarmament would be a declaration that the production of fissile material for weapons should be ended and that existing stocks should be transferred to peaceful uses as soon as a practical plan can be agreed upon. You say, what about the interim? You proceed by stages. What will you do in the meantime? How do you preserve the security of your state?"

That brings me to one further step, and it is not a new one. It has been advanced since the 1600's that an international military force should be begun whose capability would be the restraining of nations from aggression. I digress for a moment to answer a statement made this afternoon by one hon. member who was filled with remorse, horror and shock that the government had not placed before the U.S.S.R. its willingness to set aside the Arctic areas of Canada to mutual inspection provided a like right was granted by the U.S.S.R. I first direct the attention of the House to my remarks on August 22, 1958. I do not want to spend long on this but I have to point out the fact that on that occasion I said, as found at page 3944 of Hansard:

"For our part I can give unqualified assurances that to the extent that the control arrangements which may be agreed upon might be applicable to Canadian territory, we are prepared to co-operate in setting up control stations and inspection of the kind outlined in the report of the experts."

Apparently this was not read or, if read, not understood.

"Indeed on more than one occasion Canada has agreed unreservedly to her northern areas and Arctic regions being made available for inspection in order to ensure that surprise attacks will not take place."

These views have been communicated to Mr. Khrushchev on two occasions. The first was on January 18, 1958 when I wrote him and said this:

"I give assurance that in the context of a disarmament agreement the Canadian Government would be willing to open all or part of Canada to aerial and ground inspection on a basis of reciprocity. It seems to me that this is the type of proposal which should prove attractive to both our countries since we are neighbours across the Arctic. I have in mind in particular the kind of proposal Canada joined in sponsoring last August involving a system of inspection in the Arctic regions. We were willing then and are willing now to take such action in order to provide assurance against the fear of surprise attack."