

prohibiting such action be adopted as a matter of priority. International agreement to this effect would be of great value in reducing the fear that the arms race may be extended to this environment. It would also be a first step toward a rule of law in outer space. Moreover, in our view, its adoption would implement and reinforce the two measures I have just mentioned. We welcome the statement by President Kennedy in his letter to Chairman Khrushchev of October 28 that "questions relating to the proliferation of nuclear weapons on earth and in outer space" should be given priority consideration along with related problems.

Another vital question which should be discussed in the Collateral Measures Committee is the establishment of nuclear-free zones in various parts of the world. The importance of this question has been brought to the attention of this Committee by the proposal of the distinguished Brazilian delegate to create a nuclear-free zone in Latin America. The Canadian delegation believes that the creation of such a zone is primarily a matter for the countries in the region concerned to decide themselves. But the form of such agreements and, what is very important, the means for verifying that their provisions are being observed could appropriately be considered in the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee, as a measure collateral to disarmament.

Mr. Chairman, if we are to profit from the lessons of the Cuban crisis, it will be of the highest importance that the Eighteen-Nation Committee resume its work at once and that every effort be made to achieve agreement immediately on the important questions to which I have just referred. The statements of President Kennedy, Chairman Khrushchev and Prime Minister MacMillan about which I spoke earlier give new grounds for hope that agreements can be reached in these vital areas.

Taken together, agreements preventing dissemination of nuclear weapons and placing weapons of mass destruction in outer space and measures adopted against war by accident would constitute a significant advance toward a safer and more stable world.