

One paragraph in that resolution passed by the Disarmament Commission in August goes to the very heart of the problem now facing us in disarmament. That paragraph reads as follows: "The Disarmament Commission considers it necessary and recommends that, in view of the urgency of the problem, continued efforts be made for the earliest possible continuation of international negotiations to achieve a constructive solution of the question of general and complete disarmament under effective international control."

That is one key to the problem we are facing today. A third item connected with disarmament has been submitted by India, dealing with the suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests. Certainly, to all non-nuclear nations, including Canada, this resolution is of great importance. Our stand has been that there should be no more such tests.

The fourth disarmament item comes from Ireland, calling for the prevention of the wider dissemination of nuclear weapons. The aspect of the disarmament problem raised by that resolution has great urgency, for, if no agreement is reached on disarmament at an early date, it may be - it just may be - too late to stop the spread of such weapons.

Discussion Belongs in First Committee

It is our view that all four disarmament items, including the Soviet item, should be dealt with in the First Committee and should be the first business of that Committee. There is no reason why those discussions on disarmament should not start later this week. Such action holds the best hope of any progress being made on the disarmament question during the present session. I am sure that will be the case, because the Chairman of that Committee is our good friend and colleague, Sir Claude Correa.

Whether the four items are brought together under a single heading and discussed as a unit or remain separate items, I presume some latitude would be allowed in the discussion; for example, that a representative discussing the report of the Disarmament Commission would not be ruled out of order if he were to express his government's concern regarding nuclear tests. In any event, these four items are related - closely related. Their separation, at least for purposes of discussion, would be highly artificial - even though each item will probably give rise to a separate resolution - as has happened in other years. What would be the sense of discussing the Soviet item in plenary and the other disarmament items in Committee?

Canada is particularly interested in following up the resolution of the Disarmament Commission, which urged the earliest possible continuation of international negotiations on disarmament. As a member of the Ten-Nation Disarmament Committee, we know that considerable progress was made during the sittings of that Committee.

Evidence of Compromise

This is a fact which has not been generally recognized. However, it is clearly evident from a comparison of the original disarmament plans submitted in March by the two sides with those brought forward in June.