

We remain hopeful that the USSR will re-examine its objections to this measure, which we see as an excellent possibility for slowing down the arms race.

Finally, I should like to mention briefly Item 31--the elimination of foreign military bases in the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

As we are all aware, the priorities given the negotiation of a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons by the ENDC prevented the Committee from discussing this subject in any depth. The Canadian position on this question can, however, be stated in a very few words. It is based on two principles: (1) the right of sovereign states freely to conclude defence arrangements involving, if agreeable to the parties concerned, the establishment of military bases on their territory, and (2) non-interference in the domestic affairs of other states. Moreover Canada has always maintained that progress towards general and complete disarmament can best be achieved through balanced, equitable and effectively controlled measures. Proposals regarding bases that we have seen so far do not meet the criteria. They involve a sacrifice in the collective security arrangements of the West without any balancing obligation on the part of the USSR and its allies. In the Canadian view, foreign bases should be and will be eliminated in the process of general disarmament. In fact we have seen many bases disappear in the past decade, in response to lessening tensions, and changes in strategic conditions; and we shall doubtless see many more disappear, if international relations improve.