

upon a course of gradual nuclear disarmament. There can be no purpose in hiding the sombre truth that signs point in the opposite, the negative, direction in regard to the nuclear armaments race between them.

Can this nuclear arms race be halted? In January of this year, the U.S.A. proposed through diplomatic channels that they and the U.S.S.R. should discuss the stopping by agreement of the production and development of offensive and defensive missiles. It is understood that at the time the U.S.S.R. agreed in principle to hold such talks but since the matter has rested. Must the nuclear missile arms race go on until all concerned reach agreement on a treaty on general and complete disarmament? One hopes not. On the other hand, the prospects for general and complete disarmament would be very much brighter if the nuclear-missile arms race could be halted by preliminary agreement between the nuclear powers.

Suspension of Nuclear and Thermonuclear Tests

High on any list of partial measures which could lead eventually to general and complete disarmament is a treaty suspending all nuclear and thermonuclear tests — in other words, the comprehensive test ban. I should be less than realistic if I said that the prognosis for an early conclusion of such a treaty is good. On the one hand, the representatives of the nuclear powers in the ENDC have stated that their countries were in favour of arriving at an adequately verified test ban. On the other hand, both the United States and the U.S.S.R. continue to carry out nuclear tests underground, while Communist China and France are testing in the atmosphere. The ostensible obstacle to the early conclusion of a comprehensive test ban is the lack of agreement on what constitutes "adequate verification". As the representative of Sweden, Mrs. Myrdal, stated at the 332nd meeting of the ENDC this year, the obstacle is simply that "one side is upholding the theory that on-site inspections are necessary to ensure no violations occur, while the other side reiterates that national means of detection and verification are satisfactory and that on-site inspections should be prescribed". There is, fortunately, a more optimistic side to this last problem. Progress is being made and various countries, such as the United States, Britain, Sweden and, in a modest way, Canada, are carrying out extensive and active research programmes devoted to the improvement of seismological recording and the interpretation of the data so obtained. The result of which will, it is to be hoped, yield completely instrumented verification methods which will be generally acceptable. Research by Canadian scientists indicates that this era has not yet arrived, but certainly encouraging progress is being made. It is the Canadian position that such research must be continued and that the information so obtained should be shared internationally. Indeed, as I said in a statement at the ENDC, such an interchange of information and ideas could well contribute to the spirit of mutual trust and understanding necessary to facilitate agreement on the political aspects of a comprehensive test ban. To this end, Canada has played and continues to play an active role in the projects