



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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### PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR ARMS

Statement issued on August 17, 1965, by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, on the Occasion of the Tabling of Western Proposals for a Non-Proliferation Treaty in the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee.

Today, August 17, proposals for a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons are being tabled at the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee in Geneva by the leader of the United States delegation. These proposals carry the general support of the Western countries represented in the ENDC. They derive from discussions and consultations over a period of months among a number of governments, in which Canada has played an active part. The Canadian Government supports these proposals and commends them to the serious attention of all governments and peoples and, more particularly, to those governments represented in the disarmament discussions at Geneva.

Canada has for some time advocated an early beginning of serious negotiation toward international action to halt the spread of nuclear weapons. We prepared a draft treaty of our own for the purpose of discussion with our allies. In this way we intended to stimulate thought through friendly consultation with other governments and so help to encourage progress in this important field. Since the resumption of the disarmament talks on July 27, there has been continuous and intensive discussion among the Western representatives at Geneva. These discussions have resulted in the new proposals for a non-proliferation treaty put forward by the United States representative today.

It is gratifying that a number of ideas which the Canadian Government has been advancing over the past several months are reflected in the draft treaty which has now been tabled. The central one is a non-dissemination formula based on the Irish resolution of 1961, which called upon all states to conclude an international agreement to refrain from relinquishing control of nuclear weapons and from transmitting information necessary for their manufacture, with reciprocal obligations for the non-nuclear powers. There is also a provision for co-operation by signatories in applying international safeguards to all their peaceful nuclear activities.

Progress in the field of disarmament is a major policy objective of the Canadian Government. I am encouraged that it has been possible to reach agreement among the Western countries at Geneva on proposals which offer the prospect of some genuine advance in the vital field of non-proliferation. Clearly, general agreement on an international treaty is not yet in sight.