

ization, and also through special working groups established for the purpose, to prepare Western positions on the subjects which will be taken up at the summit meeting.

It was indicated by the three negotiating powers—that is, the United Kingdom, the United States and France — after the Western heads-of-government meeting in Paris in December, that particular interest would be shown at the summit in problems relating to Germany, including Berlin, disarmament and East-West relations. The Soviet Premier will undoubtedly have some subjects of his own to suggest, but it is a matter of satisfaction that, by avoiding a question of a formal agenda and proposing merely that the summit meeting consider international questions of mutual concern, the Western powers have got around at least one of the stumbling blocks that last year delayed East-West negotiations.

On the Western side, working groups have been established, all of them in close association with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, to draw up recommendations for the positions to be adopted by the West. To meet the requirements of consultation and joint effort, certain new methods and procedures have had to be worked out and I am glad to say that in the period since the NATO ministerial meeting in December satisfactory arrangements have been drawn up. A five-power working group on disarmament, on which Canada is represented, began meetings in Washington on January 25. It is, of course, also preparing for the meetings of the ten-power Disarmament Committee, which is to start in Geneva on March 15. Meetings are also being held in Washington of a four-power working group, composed of the United States, United Kingdom, France and West Germany, on Germany and Berlin.

Similarly, the three negotiating powers are examining in close consultation with their NATO allies the possibilities to be pursued in the realm of East-West relations. The NATO Council has a direct representative on that working group. These groups report on their work to their own governments and to the NATO Council.

In coming weeks there will be other forms of consultation in addition to the regular arrangements conducted through the NATO Council. For example, I shall be going to Washington in mid-April for consultations with other foreign ministers on summit preparations as they relate to disarmament.

Perhaps the most important of such gatherings will be the annual spring ministerial meeting of NATO, which is to take place in Istanbul, Turkey, from May 2 to May 4. This will be a meeting of NATO foreign ministers, and we will have the opportunity on that occasion to examine carefully the results of the work of the various preparatory groups and to make recommendations to the three powers who will be participating in the summit meeting discussions commencing May 16.

It is proposed that very shortly after the summit meetings, the foreign ministers of the three powers — that is, again, the United Kingdom, the United States