

The Soviet disdain for the solemn appeal of this Assembly poses that question in stark and grave terms. Our protest at this time is based on the conviction that the universal revulsion which this Soviet action will excite may yet serve the purpose of persuading the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to resume a position of co-operating with world opinion as expressed in and through the United Nations.

Indian Resolution

We are at present debating the Indian draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.283/Rev. 2. Doubts have been expressed in previous statements this morning whether, in view of what has happened, there is very much use in passing a resolution calling for an unsupported moratorium. The Canadian Government had decided before this last event to support this draft resolution, and we still intend to do so and to vote for it. In this statement which I am making, we shall give our reasons for so doing and shall also give our views on the general problem of what should be done to ensure that the testing of nuclear weapons is stopped and stays stopped. I apologize if I repeat, in order to make our position clear, things that have been said by many other delegations in their statements on this subject.

The first reason why nuclear testing should be stopped is that radioactive nuclear fall-out is a danger to health. We do not know how great a danger it is; scientific studies have not been conclusive on this point. But it is agreed that all exposure to radioactivity can affect the human body. It is further agreed that the greater the exposure, the greater the danger. Furthermore, fear of radioactive fall-out is widespread among all peoples in the world, and their fear and anxiety should be respected. This alone is sufficient reason for calling for nuclear testing to cease.

But there is another reason, a reason about which there can be no doubt, and this is that nuclear testing is for the purpose of arming the nuclear powers with more and bigger nuclear weapons. As we have been told so many times, the nuclear powers already have more than enough such weapons to kill half of humanity.

The nuclear powers assert that they have been or may be obliged to resume testing because their national security requires it. This, in the view of the Canadian delegation, is in the long term a grave error. A series of tests conducted by one side brings about a subsequent series of tests conducted by the other -- and this is the essence of and the most dangerous part of the arms race. Can masses of nuclear weapons confer any security when it is certain that if the powers owning them put them to use, they will go down together in mutual destruction -- destruction which will extend far beyond their own borders? The existence of these weapons is a threat to the nations which possess them, to the nations which do not possess them and to humanity at large.