

Early in the Geneva conference, a committee of the whole was set up to deal with measures which could be put into effect quickly and would help to relieve international tension and create mutual confidence pending agreement on general and complete disarmament.

Among the subjects this Committee has before it are: First, measures to prevent further dissemination of nuclear weapons; second, the reduction of the possibility of war by accident, miscalculation or failure of communications. In order to stop the arms race spreading to outer space, Canada has proposed in this Committee that immediate action should be taken to prevent the placing of weapons of mass destruction in orbit. We urge that, when the Disarmament Committee resumes its work, redoubled efforts be made to reach agreement on the important questions which are before this collateral measures committee.

Force of World Opinion

This Assembly should bring to bear the full force of world opinion to ensure more rapid progress in disarmament. To achieve this we must, first of all here in New York, avoid propaganda exchanges on the question of disarmament. The whole issue could become a propaganda battle here in this Assembly, and this would be a tragedy. We must also assess the possibilities for compromise on important points which are still in dispute. Finally, we must recommend as forcefully as possible - I would hope recommend with one voice - that the Disarmament Committee in Geneva renew its efforts at the earliest possible moment.

The Commonwealth prime ministers meeting in London a few days ago recorded their unanimous conviction in this sense. That statement by the Commonwealth conference was very significant, because the 15 nations there represented all the continents of the world. I quote from the communiqué:

"The Prime Ministers agreed that the need for disarmament had been intensified by the steady development of ever more powerful weapons. They re-affirmed the principles laid down in their statement on disarmament on March 17, 1961, and expressed their conviction that the 18-Nation Disarmament Committee at Geneva should continue its efforts towards a treaty for general and complete disarmament in accordance with these principles. They noted that discussions on the cessation of nuclear-weapons tests had also been taking place in Geneva and expressed the hope that these efforts would be successful in bringing into being an effective treaty to eradicate this source of fear and danger to mankind."