

The non-nuclear and non-aligned nations, through their representatives on the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee, have called for an agreement on non-proliferation to be accompanied by steps to halt the arms race and reduce nuclear armaments. The Canadian Delegation, as I have said, believes that this appeal is just and reasonable and that some clear connection should be established between agreement by the non-nuclear powers not to acquire nuclear weapons and action by the nuclear powers to embark on a specific series of measures leading toward disarmament. What steps could the nuclear powers take? It is encouraging to note that the United Kingdom has already taken a first step. As Lord Chalfont recalled in the ENDC, Her Majesty's Government announced two years ago the end of its production of the U-235 for military purposes, and that it was beginning to stop production of military plutonium. We were reminded in the statement of the representative of the United States yesterday that the United Nations and the ENDC have had before them for a long time the United States proposal to halt the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes and to start making a reduction in the stocks held by the two major nuclear powers. This long-standing proposal has been extended and improved by the further measures suggested and explained by the United States representative yesterday.

There is also the proposal, placed before the ENDC in January 1964 and since renewed, to call a halt to the production of long-range nuclear-weapon vehicles -- rockets and aircraft -- and to the development of new types. This could lead the way to balanced reductions of these fear-inspiring types of armament.

The Soviet Union has called for the destruction of bombing aircraft in its programme of collateral measures presented to the General Assembly on 7 December 1964.

Unfortunately, there have been no serious discussions or negotiations on these proposals. The Canadian Delegation believes that agreement on these three measures -- or, in fact, on any one of them -- could go far to halt the arms race, reduce tension and create favourable conditions for further steps toward the goal of general and complete disarmament. The Canadian Delegation believes that this impasse could be overcome by great-power agreement to effect some, and preferably all, of the collateral measures we have mentioned.

There is another measure which, if it were agreed to by the nuclear powers, would provide an offset to the obligations not to acquire nuclear weapons which the non-nuclear nations are asked to assume. This measure is to prohibit underground nuclear-weapon testing, thus completing the process of total abolition of nuclear testing, thus completing end to the further elaboration of nuclear weapons, whose destructiveness would seem already to have reached the limits of the human imagination.

I should like to quote what Mr. Nilsson, the Foreign Minister of Sweden, said on this point in the General Assembly on 6 October last:

"... Sweden also holds that it is a fair and urgent demand that measures designed to freeze present nuclear capabilities be coupled with measures designed to hinder additional countries from procuring some of that same military strength. The comprehensive test ban would, in fact, have that double-sided effect, and that is the reason why we want to give it first priority."
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