

I do not need to remind a body of this distinction of the close connection between the arms race and international political problems. States arm themselves to defend national interests which they believe are threatened by other states. When one state arms, another responds. The competition in arms building in turn intensifies political disputes. The two processes become completely intertwined. When this happens, it requires statesmanship of the highest order to reverse the trend and to disentangle the arms race from the political confrontation.

It is important that we all have a clear understanding of the nature of the detente about which so much is now spoken. The political problems have not been solved. The détente means only that the leaders of the Atlantic alliance and of the Soviet bloc have recognized that there can be no hope of arresting the arms race and liberating man from the danger of self-destruction unless a climate is created in which political differences can be rationally and unemotionally examined.

In so far as disarmament is concerned, for the first time there is a realization on both sides that it is a gradual process. The agreements recently reached have been made possible because the great powers have recognized that in certain small but well-defined areas they had an identity of interest. They have had the realism to give tangible expression to that identity of interest. This is welcome evidence of a new approach. These steps are desirable in themselves. Moreover, the very process of reaching agreement diminishes the enormous reservoir of suspicion built up over recent years, and thereby makes possible the further steps needed to attain the final goal.

Mr. Chairman, the Canadian Government is convinced that the nations of the world must continue to make an all-out effort to achieve a realistic programme of disarmament. As we see it, this is not just a question of the hopes or dreams of idealists; it is an objective which all rational men must recognize as in their own interest. The alternative of a continuing arms race is ruinously wasteful in terms of economic resources. It is also self-defeating because lasting peace never has been guaranteed by national armed force - and never can be; peace must be founded on effective international agreements for the reduction of armaments and the strengthening of machinery - and the political will to use it - for settling disputes by peaceful means. Canada, for its part, will continue to pursue the goal of disarmament under conditions of security.