

on an inspection system to verify the cessation of production for weapons purposes; the study of a system of control and inspection over objects entering outer space; aerial and ground inspection and the exchange of "military blueprints" in specified areas; an international control organ; and provision for the study of a system for regulating the international movement of armaments. Articles setting forth the conditions under which the treaty might be suspended, and presenting the paper for negotiation "on the understanding that its parts are inseparable" were also included.

On the occasion of their presentation in the Sub-Committee, Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker emphasized the importance of the new Western proposals, and stated the view of the Canadian Government with respect to them:

Today in London the Western Powers on the Sub-Committee of the United Nations Disarmament Commission—France, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada—have presented to the Soviet Union proposals which we believe can provide the basis for an agreement on a first stage of disarmament. These proposals are the product of extensive consultations directed towards the design of a plan which could be given effect immediately, without political conditions, and so make a tangible contribution to world peace now by rendering more remote the danger of war.

Progress towards settlement of major political issues is a condition for moving toward the second and third stages since some steps toward solving the problems which can cause international conflicts are necessary before we and our allies can safely make extensive reductions in our defences. Nevertheless, reductions to the levels of 2.5 million for the United States and the Soviet Union and 750,000 for France and the United Kingdom, which are proposed for the first stage, would constitute a significant step toward disarmament.

During the first stage it is also proposed that these four powers place certain designated armaments under international supervision in depots within their own territories. We believe that this will be a valuable introduction to more extensive reductions in armaments envisaged in the second and third stages, when the arms retained would be related to the reduced manpower ceilings.

The proposals for nuclear disarmament provide for the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons except in defence against an armed attack. They further provide that the production of fissionable materials for weapons purposes should cease, that transfer from weapon stockpiles to peaceful uses should be made and that there should be an effective inspection system to verify compliance with those commitments. The implementation of such proposals would first put a stop to the atomic armaments race and then reverse the trend by reducing the reserves of nuclear weapons.

Provision is also made for a time-table under which nuclear test explosions would, in the first instance, be suspended for a year. If satisfactory progress is being made towards arrangements to cut off production of fissionable materials for weapons, the suspension period would be extended for a further year. Thus the proposals treat suspension of tests as a matter for immediate action while keeping the problem in proper perspective, for the ending of tests cannot end the nuclear armaments race.

In order to ensure that all parties to the agreement are carrying out their obligations, and in order to diminish the dangers of surprise attack, the Western Powers have put forward a number of proposals regarding control and inspection. They would provide for systems to verify compliance with the suspension of nuclear tests and with the cessation of production of fissionable materials for weapons purposes. They would also include provisions for aerial and ground inspection designed to assist in guarding against surprise attack. It is our belief that it is of the greatest importance to have in operation such systems of inspection if we are to ensure that under a disarmament treaty the nations will enjoy no less security than their present defences provide. Because of this belief the Canadian Government has agreed, if the Soviet Union will reciprocate, to the inclusion of either the whole or a part of Canada in an equitable system of aerial inspection and will do its utmost to ensure that the system works effectively. We consider that a useful start in providing safeguards against surprise attack could be made in the Arctic areas.