

New Western Plan

During the past months Canada has taken an active part in the drafting of a new Western disarmament plan. Throughout this period the United States and the other countries which represented the West on the Ten-Nation Committee have been in close consultation. The other members of the Western alliance who were not on the Committee have also had an opportunity to express their views on the new plan. The contents of this plan cannot be revealed at this time, but it does constitute a significant improvement over previous Western proposals. We have been represented during these discussions by Lieutenant-General E.L.M. Burns, who has played a very large part in the field of disarmament for a long time and who, I suggest, has no peer anywhere in the world in this particular field.

Many of our suggestions have been accepted in the working out of this new plan. A great deal of effort has been put into trying to meet the desires expressed at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference to ensure the maximum amount of disarmament in the shortest possible time. Full consideration has already been given to the reasonable Soviet proposals.

This new Western plan will be put forward for negotiation, and not on a "take it or leave it" basis. The Western powers are willing to take into account any further suggestions the Soviet Union may have, provided they reflect a genuine willingness to arrive at a realistic and properly safeguarded disarmament programme.

At the session of the General Assembly which opens on September 19, Canada will work for the endorsement of this new Western plan by the widest possible number of states and we will do our best to ensure that any negotiating body which may be agreed upon will have close relationship with the United Nations. We believe that the most important objective in the field of disarmament is to get negotiations started again just as quickly as possible.

Belgrade Conference

Then, I should like to say a few words about the unaligned-nations conference which met over the week end in Belgrade. There you had 25 neutral nations, some of whom were not very friendly towards the West if one can judge by their actions in recent years. The representatives of these nations came from various continents to try to work out some plan to help reduce tension in the world. I grant that a good deal of time was spent in attacking the question of colonialism and issues which affected particular nations. I believe that the press reports of the meetings of these unaligned countries have not done justice to the significance of their reaction to the questions of Berlin and the resumption of nuclear testing. The despatch which came out during that conference after