

(Mr. Burns, Canada)

Referring again to the question of the representative of Ghana, if one applied these considerations to defining the limits of an African nuclear-free zone, one could say that it would include the territories of all the African States which decided to adhere to the eventual treaty or whatever international instrument is to effect the agreement. There would seem to be no reason why an African nuclear-free zone so determined might not be recognized and respected by the nuclear Powers.

Members of the Committee will perhaps recall that our remarks on 19 October were also cited as a principle which ought to be taken into account: that arrangements for a nuclear-weapon-free zone should provide for verifying that the commitments undertaken are carried out. The representative of Mexico, in his statement on 29 October, referred to a preliminary draft of articles on a system of verification, inspection and control based mainly on a revised system of safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency. These draft articles, we understand, are under consideration by the Governments of States members of the Preparatory Committee. We should therefore only wish to say at this time that the system of verification generally conforming to the provisions set out in the draft articles given on pages 15 to 24 of document A/5985, the Final Act of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Denuclearization of Latin America, would seem to the Canadian delegation to be appropriate and adequate to the purpose of the proposed treaty. The statements of the representatives of the United Arab Republic and of Somalia, this morning, showed, in our opinion, that the problem of verification is concerning African countries and that they are developing a sound approach to this aspect of the problem of creating a nuclear-free zone for Africa.

While there are certain phrases in the draft resolution which the Canadian delegation would like to see modified, we understand that consideration is being given to some changes in parts of the text which give pause to other delegations as well as to our own. However, the debate has shown, in our opinion, that the general question of how the denuclearization of Africa is to be brought into effect is being studied and discussed by the African nations taking a leading part in the enterprise in the careful and constructive way which is essential if the project is to be brought to a successful conclusion.