

You will perhaps have noticed in the press recently that the Soviet Government has now agreed to a United States proposal for a meeting of experts to study the technical measures which would be required to implement effective systems of controlling and verifying nuclear explosions. I sincerely trust that Soviet willingness to participate in these technical studies carries the wider implication that the Soviet Government is now genuinely interested in responding to the Western desire for early progress on the disarmament problem. There is a saying that a second marriage is a triumph of hope over experience. Our earlier experience in dealing with the Soviet Union has certainly not been promising, but we have not lost hope that by means of small beginnings it may be possible to create the atmosphere of increased confidence on which more substantial agreement depends.

#### Economic Co-operation

I desire to touch briefly on one other aspect of the Copenhagen meeting. I refer to the question of economic co-operation among the NATO partners. This was the subject on which the Canadian Delegation placed particular emphasis and I was gratified that other ministers held the same views. There was general agreement on the importance of co-ordinated effort to ensure economic prosperity - notably by the expansion of international trade and by aid to under-developed countries. Consultation on methods and machinery for co-operation in this field will take place within the Alliance.

I stress one point here which I think is not always understood by those who talk of economic co-operation in NATO. I think that it is a mistake to imply that NATO will or should itself become an effective organ for economic co-operation. What is implied, however, is that the principles of economic collaboration set out in Article 2 of the Treaty should engender and inspire efforts by member countries to solve specific problems amongst themselves or in other organs where these topics can be more appropriately pursued. I have in mind in this regard the fact that there is already a great deal of enormously useful work being done under the United Nations, including the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the various Specialized Agencies, to promote the economic well-being of less developed areas of the world. The same is true, of course, of the Colombo Plan in which Canada is an active participant. I regard these projects as in a very real sense consistent with the objectives of economic co-operation which we have set ourselves to pursue in NATO.

Mr. Chairman, the agenda of this Copenhagen meeting did not include a discussion of the problems of NATO defence, which will be considered again at the meeting of the NATO Council to be held next December. I did, however, suggest to my colleagues