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DISARMAMENT

The unanimous support the prospective work of the Ten-Nation Committee had received from the United Nations General Assembly in late 1959, taken together with the general atmosphere of *détente* then prevailing in international relations, resulted in considerable confidence that the latest discussions would be more fruitful than their predecessors. At the opening meeting of the Committee on March 15, 1960, the hope was expressed by a number of delegations that the negotiations would proceed in a businesslike way and that concrete results would not be long delayed.

Ten-Nation Committee

The disarmament discussions begun in March in Geneva constituted the first detailed negotiations on this subject since the summer of 1957. On September 7, 1959, by agreement among the Governments of France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States, the Ten-Nation Committee on Disarmament was established for the purpose of pursuing these negotiations. In addition to those powers, the participants in the Committee included Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Poland and Roumania.

Negotiations in the Committee began with the consideration of two disarmament plans submitted at the opening meetings—the Soviet plan for general and complete disarmament, which had already been presented to the United Nations General Assembly by Mr. Khrushchov in September 1959, and a plan for comprehensive disarmament put forward by the five Western powers. The first six weeks of the conference were largely occupied with the discussion and clarification of provisions contained in the two plans, with each side setting forth the merits of its proposals and subjecting those of the other side to critical examination. Continued discussion along these lines produced a useful clarification of views and appeared to suggest that there had been some *rapprochement*, at least with respect to the basic aims of disarmament. However, there remained fundamental differences between the two sides, as a result of which it was not possible to reach agreement on a set of basic disarmament principles before the recess in the negotiations at the time of the conference of heads of government in Paris.

Negotiations in the Ten-Nation Committee were resumed after the failure of the summit conference, on June 7. On that date the Soviet representative introduced a new disarmament plan he described as taking into account the views expressed by Western delegations during the first round of the discussions. In commenting on the significance of the new Soviet proposals, the Canadian Representative, Lieutenant-General E.L.M. Burns, referred to the desirability of technical studies of certain aspects of disarmament, provision for which was now included in the Soviet plan. However, these suggestions and similar proposals from other members