

## A TREND TOWARD DISARMAMENT AND PEACE

(Continued from P. 2)

To what measures should the Eighteen-Nation Conference give priority? We suggest measures to reduce the risk of surprise attack, such as the establishment of ground-observation posts, measures to control the wider dissemination of nuclear weapons (as the Foreign Minister of Ireland suggested), actual physical measures of disarmament (as Lord Home proposed), and continued negotiation towards a comprehensive test-ban agreement. We must continue to proceed step by step, building up that degree of confidence which will enable far-reaching measures of disarmament to be implemented. Although progress had been slow in the Eighteen-Nation Conference, it would be wrong to be discouraged. As in the case of the limited test ban, and the Austrian State Treaty, a seemingly endless and inconclusive discussion can lead, suddenly, to progress and achievement. We now have the prerequisite for successful negotiations - a world-wide conviction that security cannot be enhanced by the arms race and that countries with different political philosophies share an over-riding common interest, that of promoting and achieving world stability through the control and elimination of armaments and the settlement of disputes by peaceful means.

## RISKS OF SUMMIT MEETINGS

The Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, Mr. Gromyko, in his statement in plenary session on September 19, suggested that the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament should convene early next year at the level of heads of government or state. I should like to quote the remarks of the Prime Minister of Canada concerning this proposal. On September 25, the Prime Minister said: "I have always felt that, while there are occasions when summit meetings are essential, you should be very careful to do all the preparation in the valley before you try to get up to the summit for your meeting. In other words, a summit conference is attended by so much publicity and arouses so much in the way of expectation that you should be pretty sure that you are going to be able to accomplish anything before you have one; otherwise the resulting disillusionment is pretty great. So, if we are going to have a summit disarmament meeting of the Committee of Eighteen, then there would have to be a lot of preparation done in advance and we would have to be pretty certain that the summit meeting was going to result in some concrete achievement. On those conditions I would be very glad to attend it."

If, as we hope, the major powers of the world move forward towards ending the arms race and dependence on national armaments for the maintenance of their security, the more urgent becomes the need to develop the capacity of the United Nations to deal with situations which could threaten international peace. Both the joint statement of agreed principles and the United States' and the Soviet Union's disarmament plans recognize the

need for improved peace-keeping machinery as disarmament progresses. Prime Minister Pearson, in plenary session on September 19, indicated the steps Canada has already taken, in our national military planning, to maintain, train and equip units which can be placed at the disposal of the United Nations on short notice for service anywhere in the world. The Prime Minister of Canada urged others to adopt similar arrangements and he proposed that there should be an examination by interested governments of the problems and techniques of peace-keeping operations with a view to the development in a co-ordinated way of trained and equipped collective forces for United Nations service. At a later stage, we intend to follow up with concrete proposals to this end. The Canadian Prime Minister was not, as some seem to have thought, advocating a standing United Nations army at this time but rather the more modest objective of co-ordinated national preparations to meet the sort of United Nations requests a number of us have already repeatedly been called upon to fulfil.

Mr. Chairman, while general and complete disarmament must remain our objective over the long term, we can and should give just as great attention at this stage to working out preliminary agreements designed to facilitate progress towards that objective. Clearly, the United Nations General Assembly is not itself an appropriate forum for examining detailed proposals either on disarmament or on measures designed to facilitate disarmament. At the same time we believe it is of the utmost importance that such detailed studies should be carried out by a body which is representative of world opinion. We believe that the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee comes closer to this requirement than any other body established for the purpose. The major military powers are, for the most part, represented on the Committee. I might add, in this connection, that the successful prosecution of the tasks of the Conference requires active participation of *all* of its members, particularly in relation to the key problem of nuclear disarmament. We feel strongly that this Assembly should reaffirm its confidence in the Committee's ability to pursue its task...

It is important that we all have a clear understanding of the nature of the *détente* about which so much is now spoken. The political problems have not been solved. The *détente* means only that the leaders of the Atlantic alliance and of the Soviet bloc have recognized that there can be no hope of arresting the arms race and liberating man from the danger of self-destruction unless a climate is created in which political differences can be rationally and unemotionally examined.

In so far as disarmament is concerned, for the first time there is a realization on both sides that it is a gradual process. The agreements recently reached have been made possible because

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