

Draft Resolution on Technical Studies

It seems to my Government that a useful list of possibilities--which does not necessarily have to be treated as exhaustive--is to be found in the draft resolution on technical studies submitted by the United Kingdom in Document A/C1/L251. This draft resolution, as I understand it, seeks to give expression to the important suggestion made by Prime Minister Macmillan in the general debate that many aspects of the disarmament question might usefully be approached from the scientific point of view. The Canadian Government favours this approach and believes it capable of extension, even beyond the limits which the United Kingdom may have envisaged for it.

We see this as a procedure to expedite negotiations --not to delay them as some would suggest. The powers concerned should be willing to begin joint technical studies concerning the measures, at the earliest possible date, irrespective of any interruption in the political negotiations on disarmament. If it is agreed that studies are required in order to facilitate negotiations, why not undertake those studies at once?

The studies would be conducted by experts, especially by nationals of the powers directly concerned in the negotiations because of their technical knowledge and direct involvement in the problems. But, and I repeat that, but qualified experts from other countries--whose contribution would be based on technical competence rather than on political viewpoint--could also participate in the studies, and, we believe, could make an extremely valuable contribution.

I agree with the Foreign Minister of Sweden, who said, the other day, in his remarks in the UN General Assembly, that there would be a need for more than one technical study-group. Whatever conclusions those experts might reach need not affect the political bargaining between the two sides in the negotiations, but the negotiating nations would benefit from having a qualified presentation and assessment of the technical problems involved.

The negotiations concerning the discontinuance of nuclear weapons tests serve as a model in this respect. In the Canadian view, these negotiations have shown more promise of serious intent than any others relating to disarmament.

Expert Deliberation

By agreement between the U.S.S.R., U.S.A. and U.K.-- and here I point out that what happened is not in line with what the representative of the U.S.S.R. was advocating this morning-- those negotiations began with a preliminary scientific study concerning the feasibility of controlling violations of any international agreement to discontinue tests. This joint technical study, which took place in the summer of 1958,