

It seems to the Canadian delegation also that nations which are not nuclear powers but which have the capacity to manufacture nuclear weapons, if they renounce that development, should also receive some guarantee of protection against the threat or the actuality of nuclear attack. That idea was advanced by the Foreign Minister of Ireland, Mr. Aiken, in his statement in the General Assembly on 8 December 1964. The same idea was referred to by the representative of the United States in his statement of 26 April. We have listened also with great interest to the comments of the representative of India and the representative of the United Arab Republic on this problem.

In this connection, I quote what Mr. Martin, the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, said in Geneva in an address to the World Veterans Federation on 3 May:

"In the next ten years there may be as many as a score of states which could, if they were to make the necessary political decision to do it, acquire an independent military nuclear capability by manufacturing their own nuclear weapons. It seems axiomatic to me that, if these nations are to be expected to continue their voluntary abstention, if they are to be expected to go even further and make a formal international commitment to refrain from producing them in future, then the military nuclear powers must accept responsibilities of their own. They must not only demonstrate increasing restraint in the nuclear field. They must also make renewed efforts to achieve early progress in the direction of general disarmament, including the reduction and, eventually, the elimination of all national stockpiles of nuclear weapons.

"It may be necessary to guarantee the security of non-nuclear states, at least against nuclear attack ... if they are to be expected to forgo the option of becoming nuclear powers at some future date. Collective security arrangements have in large measure already provided a guarantee of this nature for the allies of the great nuclear powers. The non-aligned and neutral nations do not enjoy similar guarantees".

Mr. Martin said later:

"It should surely not be beyond the collective genius of the nuclear powers to provide these non-nuclear states, which are either non-aligned or neutral and which evidently regard the option of being able to become a nuclear power at some future time as a factor contributing to their national security, with a credible guarantee against nuclear attack. This would not, of course, alter in any way their non-aligned or neutral status."