

A resolution was approved unanimously urging the resumption of disarmament negotiations at once. The Russians voted for it too. But then nothing happened. However, it was an expression of world opinion. At the meeting of this Commission we demanded that negotiations be resumed, and we urged that representatives of the unaligned countries be added to the negotiators. There was no use sending back the five Warsaw Pact countries and the five NATO countries, because they would clash in the first 15 minutes and that would be it. So Canada urged that representatives of the unaligned countries be added.

The General Assembly of the United Nations met a few weeks after that, in the fall of 1960. At that time the Hon. Member for Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt) was my Parliamentary Secretary, and he took a magnificent part in the deliberations at the United Nations ... We stressed the need to resume negotiations from the start to finish of that session....

Resumption of Soviet Tests

At the same time, starting really in 1959, we had been bringing in resolutions about radiation with the idea of focusing world opinion on the menace of these nuclear-weapons tests. We have been getting these resolutions carried with more support every year. This year we did not have nearly as much trouble, I will tell you, as we did in 1959. In 1961 the Soviet Union, if you please, resumed tests. They had been negotiating the question with the United States and Britain for nearly three years. During all that time there had been a voluntary moratorium. Then in September, 1961, out they come and start tests. Obviously they had been making preparations for several months.

When the United Nations General Assembly met in 1961, the Soviet Union was in the middle of these tests. Perhaps you will recall that they were going to set off a 100-megaton bomb and Canada and the Scandinavian countries -- Canada nearly always works with them in the United Nations -- took the lead in bringing in a resolution urging Premier Khrushchov not to set off that bomb. There again we had a lot of trouble, because some nations said what is the use? In the meantime he set off a bomb, and everybody thought it was a 100-megaton bomb. Then, fortunately, we discovered it was only 50 megatons, so our resolution still made sense the way it was worded against the 100-megaton bomb. In the final analysis, that resolution carried with the support of all the nations except the Communist countries.

By this time opinion had been aroused about this testing, and in December of 1961 the United States and Russia reached agreement that there would be an 18-Nation Disarmament Committee, and they named the Committee....

Agreement was reached by all the members of the United Nations to set up this 18-Nation Disarmament Committee, including the same five countries from the West and the same five from the East, plus eight unaligned countries as we had been urging. Those