

Related to this danger of thermonuclear war or thermonuclear annihilation is the problem posed by totalitarian imperialism. The communist dictators have already dragooned hundreds of millions of men into highly centralized empires which deny the dignity and worth of the individual except as a creature of the state. This imperialist and materialist conspiracy has recruited its dupes in the rest of the world and organized them into fifth columnists. It thereby seeks, through propaganda and subversion, to foster disunity in the non-communist world while it expands the area of its own direct control by coup d'état or military forces around its periphery in Europe and in Asia.

Facing up to these fundamental problems, there are three main areas in which we must seek to advance. The first area involves a search for agreement on effective disarmament, substantial enough to lessen the burden of present defence expenditures and including the total and effective prohibition of all weapons of mass destruction. But such a programme must be carefully balanced to avoid creating the incentive to aggression, and with reliable safeguards, inspections and controls to guarantee that it will be carried out.

For years the Canadian Government has taken an active part in the search for such an agreement. Last autumn at the United Nations Assembly the Canadian Delegation, I think it is fair to say, took the lead in submitting proposals of certain principles and procedures with a view to further negotiations on this vital matter. These proposals, after arduous negotiations conducted on the Western side, under the skilful and devoted leadership of my colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin), won the unanimous approval of all the governments represented at that world organization. We will continue to do all we can to pursue agreement on effective disarmament.

As I see it, there is nothing inconsistent between this policy and the agreements I am about to discuss. Indeed, if the communist powers would accept the level of armaments, as well as the limitations and controls, in these agreements, we would be well on our way to a universal United Nations disarmament treaty which would make limited defence arrangements such as NATO and those under the Western European Union unnecessary. The limitations on national prerogatives involved in the provisions of the relevant Paris agreements, dealing with the maximum size of forces, with international inspections, controls and deployments are, I suggest, significant as a development illustrating to the world at large that international supervision and control of national armaments is possible, granted a genuineness of desire and a willingness on the part of nations effectively to harness and check the destructive potential of national forces.

It is true that the Paris agreements apply only to a limited group of nations. They are however, not only consistent with but may some day