

particularly regarding those main issues which divide the U.S.S.R. and those associated with it from the Western powers. That is the paramount issue of this Assembly, disarmament. The Canadian Government takes its stand on behalf of full disarmament, to be assured by effective control and inspection. The major powers today possess the nuclear capacity for mutual destruction and to annihilate all. We, the middle powers and the smaller powers, cannot remain silent. We would be the hopeless victims of any nuclear catastrophe that takes place. Quite apart from our instinct for self preservation, mankind knows of the futility of wanton waste. Without a return to negotiations, we cannot hope to arrest the arms race, we cannot hope to still the process of armaments and continuing armaments. The tragedy of the ten-power negotiations was that the breakdown occurred at a time when there was an appreciable narrowing of the gap between the Soviet and Western positions. I wrote to Mr. Khrushchev on June 30. I suggested then a return to the negotiating table. The unanimous voice of the Disarmament Commission in that regard has been disregarded, for in August it called for the earliest possible continuance of disarmament negotiations. I believe that it is imperative for this Assembly to reaffirm the appeal of the Disarmament Commission.

It is not plans and principles which we need, we have four different disarmament plans and two sets of principles; there may be working methods that should be brought about, to be adjusted by agreement. Canada suggested the appointment of a neutral chairman, and is prepared to examine every constructive suggestion. We do not lack appropriate machinery, but we do lack mutual confidence and a general will on the part of the Soviet Government to negotiate.

To Dispel Mutual Fear

That confidence can be increased by dispelling the kind of secrecy which clouds preparations for war and fills the hearts of men with fear of surprise attack. Canada is the nearest neighbour of the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R.. Our people fear, and the people of the U.S.A. fear, a surprise attack across the polar regions. No doubt the people of the U.S.S.R. fear an attack from our side. Canada is prepared to make available for international inspection and control any part of Canadian Arctic Territory in exchange for a comparable concession on the part of the U.S.S.R. They say that we prepare, in co-operation with the U.S.A. in our Arctic areas, to attack. I give them the opportunity now to have an answer to their fears. You open your areas, and we will open ours, and that source of fear will be removed.

I find it difficult to understand, if it was reported correctly, why Mr. Khrushchev should have taken the view the day before yesterday that a resumption of disarmament talks should be conditional, among other things, upon the acceptance of demands