

The Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee's report has attached to it also a draft of a declaration on non-dissemination, such as was proposed on 29 July 1965 by Mr. Fanfani, the Foreign Minister of Italy and the President of our General Assembly, who described its purpose in the following terms:

"An appeal to the non-nuclear countries to take an initiative which, without prejudice to their own points of view, would fix a certain period for a moratorium on the possible dissemination of nuclear weapons. It is quite conceivable that the non-nuclear countries, particularly those close to nuclear capability, might agree to renounce unilaterally equipping themselves with nuclear weapons for a specific length of time, it being understood, of course, that, if their... demands were not complied with during the time-limit, they would resume their freedom of action."

The representative of Italy to the ENDC, Mr. Cavalletti, submitted the draft declaration on 14 September 1965, observing at that time:

"... the draft declaration which we are submitting to the Committee is not an alternative to the non-dissemination treaty which we have proposed, nor should it hold up any progress that might be possible towards that end. The declaration is intended to gain time and facilitate progress. The declaration we are proposing is a unilateral one -- a unilateral manifestation of goodwill; it does not have the character of a contractual commitment."

This Committee will doubtless consider the Italian draft declaration as a possible way to move towards non-dissemination agreements should it prove that the production of an effective treaty is likely to be long delayed.

Canada has noted with great interest the recent efforts of Latin American and African countries to contribute to a solution of the problem of nuclear proliferation by examining the feasibility of establishing nuclear-free zones in their respective regions. We welcome these efforts. Canada holds the view that arrangements for nuclear-free zones can be useful in limiting the spread of nuclear weapons provided they take account of the following principles:

- (a) any proposal for a nuclear-free zone should be acceptable to all the countries of the geographical area in which the zone would be located;
- (b) it should provide for arrangements for verifying that the commitments undertaken are carried out; and
- (c) it should be consistent with the generally accepted principle that no disarmament measure should create a unilateral advantage for any state or group of states.

It is our sincere hope that we shall, before long, see effective nuclear-free zones established, in areas where these principles apply.