

It is apparent from what I said earlier in my remarks that the Canadian Delegation, in common with other delegations, is in complete sympathy with the broad objectives of the resolution before us. Even in the absence of concrete solutions to particular political problems the general international political climate is itself important to the solution of disarmament. We have already had evidence of this during the present debate. The series of meetings which the principal powers have embarked upon this year, the establishment of personal contacts through exchanges of visits by leading statesmen and the improvement of social and cultural relationships between states have all contributed to the creation of an atmosphere favourable to the initiation of negotiations of the sort which are now envisaged. The recent declaration by the President of the United States and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. that differences must be settled by negotiations and not by force can only contribute to the same ends. This specific undertaking, reinforcing as it does the undertakings contained in the Charter, certainly helps to create a favourable atmosphere for the negotiations which are to begin in the New Year in the Disarmament Committee. On the other hand, any revival of the cold war would make the process of negotiations on disarmament more difficult and would impede the achievement of the goals we all so earnestly desire.

Any development is useful which contributes to the search for a basis of mutual confidence which is a precondition for disarmament and secure peace. Whether it be in the political arena or in the field of armaments control and limitation, every opportunity should be seized, as long as the balance of security is maintained at each stage. There are several areas where measures could be taken which, while not properly disarmament, would contribute substantially to the necessary restoration of confidence between nations and at the same time provide experience in the mechanism of inspection, control and verification which could be of the utmost value in tackling the much more complex problems of disarmament proper.

One such area is the suspension of nuclear weapons test explosions. The extensive and serious negotiations on this subject have already demonstrated clearly that even in a relatively narrow and specific problem there is a wide range of complex issues to be resolved. We hope that the pioneering work which has been done by the U.S.A., the U.K. and the U.S.S.R. and is proceeding in the conference which has just resumed in Geneva will provide a pattern which in some respects at least will be applicable to other problems of disarmament. In particular we hope that a solution will be found to the central problem of how one reaches decisions in the control organ regarding inspections which may provide a useful guide for other deliberations. The basis of confidence which is necessary for the success of negotiations on any of the wider problems can only be achieved where there is supervised disarmament. There is therefore an inseparable relationship between disarming and control, which must be negotiated in parallel and put into effect together.