

sure that you are going to be able to accomplish anything before you have one; otherwise the resulting disillusionment is pretty great. So, if we are going to have a summit disarmament meeting of the Committee of Eighteen, then there would have to be a lot of preparation done in advance and we would have to be pretty certain that the summit meeting was going to result in some concrete achievement. On those conditions I would be very glad to attend it".

If, as we hope, the major powers of the world move forward towards ending the arms race and dependence on national armaments for the maintenance of their security, the more urgent becomes the need to develop the capacity of the United Nations to deal with situations which could threaten international peace. Both the joint statement of agreed principles and the United States and the Soviet Union's disarmament plans recognize the need for improved peacekeeping machinery as disarmament progresses. Prime Minister Pearson, in Plenary Session on September 19, indicated the steps Canada has already taken, in our national military planning, to maintain, train and equip units which can be placed at the disposal of the United Nations on short notice for service anywhere in the world. The Prime Minister of Canada urged others to adopt similar arrangements and he proposed that there should be an examination by interested governments of the problems and techniques of peacekeeping operations with a view to the development in a coordinated way of trained and equipped collective forces for United Nations service. At a later stage we intend to follow up with concrete proposals to this end. The Canadian Prime Minister was not, as some seemed to have thought, advocating a standing United Nations army at this time but rather the more modest objective of coordinated national preparations to meet the sort of United Nations requests a number of us have already repeatedly been called upon to fulfil.

Mr. Chairman, while general and complete disarmament must remain our objective over the long term, we can and should give just as great attention at this stage to working out preliminary agreements designed to facilitate progress towards that objective. Clearly, the United Nations General Assembly is not itself an appropriate forum for examining detailed proposals either on disarmament or on measures designed to facilitate disarmament. At the same time we believe it is of the utmost importance that such detailed studies should be carried out by a body which is representative of world opinion. We believe that the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee comes closer to this requirement than any other body established for the purpose. The major military powers are, for the most part, represented on the Committee. I might add, in this connection, that the successful prosecution of the tasks of the Conference requires active participation of all of its members, particularly in relation to the key problem of nuclear disarmament. We feel strongly that this Assembly should reaffirm its confidence in the Committee's ability to pursue its task.

Mr. Chairman, this Assembly has every right to be encouraged by the agreements which have been reached within the last half year on measures which can reduce tension and facilitate the way to general disarmament. While this progress is welcome we should not let it be a cause for relaxing our efforts. It is a sobering thought at this time that as yet not a single rocket, not a bomber, not an atomic bomb, not a thermo-nuclear warhead, not even a machinegun, has been put on the scrapheap as a result of agreement to disarm.