

a resolution at the United Nations General Assembly last fall, which was designed to help get negotiations under way again. That resolution was co-sponsored by 18 other nations.

During the meeting in London this spring, the prime ministers of the Commonwealth issued a very significant statement on the question of disarmament. This was particularly helpful because of the membership of the Commonwealth. The prime ministers came from practically every continent and they had varying opinions. They did not agree on all things. But on this statement on disarmament they were unanimous and issued a communiqué in respect thereof. I think in the days ahead as work proceeds on disarmament this Commonwealth resolution will be of great importance.

At the session of the United Nations which ran over into the spring of 1961, it was finally agreed that the problem of disarmament and all pending proposals relating to it, which included the Canadian resolution, would be stood over until the session of the General Assembly in the fall of this year. In addition the United States and the Soviet Union agreed that they would sit down and try to work out a negotiating group, as well as general principles for negotiations, on the question of disarmament.

Since the spring there have been discussions between the representatives of these two great powers. Canada has throughout warmly approved this attempt to reach agreement on a suitable forum for resuming disarmament negotiations and a satisfactory set of directives to guide the negotiators. We have been kept closely in touch with all that has gone on at each of the meetings, and here again the United States has made a real attempt to devise a satisfactory basis. It has been flexible in its approach during these two-nation discussions.

The talks, of course, have been confidential and it is not possible to reveal the substance of the matters discussed. While they have not achieved their goal, the differences between the two sides have been clarified. Yesterday the United States and the Soviet Union were meeting in New York on this question of disarmament.

The last few days ... have seen barely-concealed threats which, as I have said, we must meet squarely. This situation, however, does not mean that we should downgrade our efforts to further the cause of disarmament. On the contrary far-reaching measures on disarmament are now more vital than ever if we are to avoid even sharper East-West conflicts in a world which daily sees the development of more frightening weapons. We must recognize clearly that, until a realistic basis for negotiation is established, we will continue to run the most dangerous risk of all, the risk of nuclear war.