

rather formal examination of treaty texts in its earlier stages to one of detailed exploration of some of the most difficult problems in the disarmament field. The Canadian delegation is confident that the Eighteen-Nation Committee, with its improving techniques for comprehensive discussion and negotiation: can when it returns to its task succeed not only in bringing the sides closer together but also in achieving a programme for total disarmament.

I should like to discuss another important aspect of the Eighteen-Nation Committee -- the work of the Committee of the Whole, sometimes called the Collateral Measures Committee. This Committee was set up to deal with measures closely related to disarmament which could come into effect quickly, help to relieve international tensions and thereby facilitate agreement on general and complete disarmament. The Collateral Measures Committee has two questions on its agenda for immediate consideration: first, measures to prevent further dissemination of nuclear weapons, and second, reduction of the possibility of war by accident, miscalculation or failure of communications. The recent world crisis has shown us very clearly how vital it is to achieve progress in these two fields.

The first measure on which the Collateral Measures Committee of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee should negotiate is to prevent the wider spread of nuclear weapons. The delegation of Canada would like to associate itself with the eloquent appeal of the distinguished representative of Ireland that the nuclear powers take immediate steps to deal with this urgent problem.

A second measure is to put into effect arrangements to reduce the risk of war by accident. The risk of a nuclear holocaust resulting from accident or miscalculation seems far greater than the risk that any nation would deliberately begin a nuclear war.

A third measure which should be given early consideration concerns the prevention of the stationing of weapons of mass destruction in outer space. The Secretary of State for External Affairs for Canada proposed in the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee that a declaration