

Western position, the presentation of proposals on individual questions such as nuclear test explosions and aerial inspection, and discussion of the Soviet proposals.

On August 29 the four Western Delegations, with the concurrence of their NATO allies, tabled an agreed working paper setting forth a plan for a first stage of disarmament. The main proposals were: reductions in armed forces to levels of 2.5 million men for the United States and the USSR and 750,000 men for the United Kingdom and France, to be followed, subject to progress toward political settlements, by further reductions in two stages to levels of 2.1 and 1.7 million, and 700,000 and 650,000 respectively; a reduction in armaments by means of agreed lists of designated armaments which would be deposited in internationally supervised depots in the territories of the states making deposits; an obligation not to use nuclear weapons except in defence against armed attack; cessation of the production of fissionable materials for weapons purposes and a beginning of transfers from weapon stockpiles to peaceful uses, both under effective international control; suspension of nuclear test explosions for a period of one year, and for a further period under certain conditions regarding control, including satisfactory progress on an inspection system to verify the cessation of production for weapons purposes; the study of a system of control and inspection over objects entering outer space; aerial and ground inspection and the exchange of "military blueprints" in specified areas; and an international control organ.

Although he had previously indicated an apparent willingness to consider certain of the Western proposals, the reaction of the Soviet Representative to the four-power plan as a whole was extremely negative. Immediately after it had been tabled he stated that "no real value can be attached to the document from the point of view of actual progress toward disarmament." He refused in subsequent meetings to comment seriously on the Western proposals and merely reiterated previous Soviet demands, while accusing the Western powers of obstructing progress. In view of Mr. Zorin's refusal to consider the Western proposals or to elaborate further the Soviet position, the five powers agreed on September 6 to adjourn *sine die*.

### **The Twelfth Session of the General Assembly**

It became apparent soon after the opening of the General Assembly that the representatives of many member nations considered the question of disarmament to be among the most important issues before the session. In the opening statement in the general debate on behalf of the Canadian Delegation, the Prime Minister emphasized the gravity of the problems facing the Assembly in this area, particularly in view of scientific progress towards newer and more dangerous weapons. Speaking of the four-power proposals of August 29, which he termed "eminently fair and reasonable", he called upon the Soviet Union to give serious consideration to the Western position. His Delegation, he concluded, recognized the extreme urgency of the situation facing mankind, and the Canadian Government would do "anything at all—take any stand whatever, short of its safety and its survival", to bring about some measure of disarmament.

The Disarmament Commission was convened on September 30 to consider the reports of its Sub-Committee. Two meetings were held, during which the representatives of several states commented briefly on the results of the Sub-Committee session, the majority again emphasizing the very great need for agreement on disarmament and calling upon the powers concerned to renew their efforts towards reaching this goal. The Commission then decided, without objection, to take note of the reports of its Sub-Committee