

Reduction of Military Budgets

Then, the Soviet Union has urged that there be an early agreement on a reduction of military budgets. I think that all nations would welcome a reduction of military expenditures, and the unilateral moves which have been made in this respect by the United States and the Soviet Union have received world-wide commendation. In passing, I may say that my own country has made a reduction in its defence spending this year. I think that all countries represented here would certainly be anxious, given the proper conditions, to see a reduction everywhere of military expenditure. In this connection, I have noted that, in the view of the Soviet Union, while the stopping of production of strategic nuclear-weapon carriers would immediately produce significant savings in one sector of the military expenditures of the greater powers, there is a danger that the resources so liberated might be used to increase the numbers of short-range missiles and conventional weapons. Perhaps this could be prevented by introducing a verified system of budgetary limitation.

Limiting Spread of A-Arms

My country welcomes the importance which this Committee is giving to the vital matter of preventing the wider dissemination of nuclear weapons, that is to say, preventing an increase in the number of states with an independent capacity for waging nuclear war. We are glad that both the Soviet Union and the United States have included this item in their lists of collateral measures. The partial test ban is a first step to check an increase in the number of nuclear powers, and this Committee has been enjoined by a resolution of the eighteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly [1910 (XVIII)] to continue its search for a comprehensive test ban. We must now, therefore, seek to agree on further guarantees against the grave dangers which the spreading of nuclear weapons would present both to the prospects for disarmament and to the peace of the world. The basic position of my country in this respect is governed by the terms of the Irish resolution [1665 (XVI)] adopted unanimously by the General Assembly in 1961. We continue to support the terms of that resolution, which call for the conclusion of an agreement which would contain certain provisions:

"...under which the nuclear states would undertake to refrain from relinquishing control of nuclear weapons and from transmitting the information necessary for their manufacture to states not possessing such weapons, and provisions under which states not possessing nuclear weapons would undertake not to manufacture or otherwise acquire control of such weapons".

At the same time we recognize that, even without such a universal agreement as is called for in that resolution, there are important steps which can and should now be taken to help prevent wider dissemination. The United States has among its proposals a number of specific suggestions for early action. The most far-reaching of those proposals involves the cessation of production of fissionable material for weapon purposes and the transfer of agreed quantities of such materials to peaceful uses. Not only, of course, is that measure directly relevant to the solution of the non-dissemination problem but its implementation would mean that the first all-important step had been taken towards actual nuclear disarmament.