

quite as low in the esteem of NATO as some of our friends opposite would have the Canadian people believe. Five NATO countries, - Great Britain, the United States, France, Italy and Canada, - and five Communist countries, - the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Roumania, - formed the Committee.

Then there is the question of our position vis-à-vis Great Britain and the United States. Our relationship with these two countries are such that we can talk to them on this or any other issue on a more intimate basis than any other country in the world. Another reason we believe that Canada can do something worthwhile is that we happen to have the confidence of practically all the unaligned countries in the world. I do not believe there is a country of the NATO group or of the Warsaw Pact group that has nearly as many friends among the unaligned countries as Canada has, and that is because these nations have confidence in us.

Another reason we believe that Canada can do something on this question is that we have our chief disarmament negotiator, Lieutenant-General E.L.M. Burns, a distinguished Canadian with a splendid record in both wars, a record as head of the United Nations Emergency Force, a splendid record in the Civil Service, a man who in my judgment is the best-qualified man in the world today on the question of disarmament. He certainly has the respect of the delegates of every one of the 16 nations participating in the present disarmament negotiations, including the Communist countries.

Soviet Withdrawal

The 10-Nation Committee was set up in September of 1959 by the four Western foreign ministers, not by the United Nations. The Committee tried to work out some agreement but on June 27, 1960, all the Communist delegates got up and walked out. The chairman at the time happened to be from one of the Communist countries and he refused to hear any Western delegates. He heard the delegates from the other four Communist countries; then the delegates from the five countries picked up their brief cases and out they went. That was not a very promising development from the point of view of anyone interested in the field of disarmament.

However, the Americans worked with us on this issue in a spirit of splendid co-operation and we managed to get a meeting of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. The Communists said they were not going to attend and were going to boycott it right up to the time we were about to meet in New York. But, when India and all the other unaligned countries made it perfectly clear that they were going to be there anyway, in came the Communist delegates at the last minute, and we had a pretty good meeting of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. This was not a meeting of the United Nations, although the nations were the same, but a meeting of the Commission and, by the way, it has not met since.