

"3. Recommends to the United Nations General Assembly that the Disarmament Commission as set up in United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1252 (XIII) should continue in being and be convened whenever deemed necessary."

In my statement in this Disarmament Commission on August 16, I underlined the urgency and the importance of resuming negotiations on the important issue of disarmament. This view has found similar expression in most of the statements which have been made in the Commission at this session, including that statement by the distinguished Representative of Guinea a few moments ago. There has been general recognition that the issues are too grave to permit any relaxing of our efforts to find a way towards agreement.

I also spoke about the results that had been achieved in the Ten-Nation Committee I referred to areas in which there had been some drawing together of opposing positions. I made no claims that the rate of progress had been satisfactory or that positive achievement in the form of an agreement concluded had been attained. I did express my belief, however, that the process of negotiation was yielding some encouraging results, and I would point out to the representatives here this morning that one of the results achieved was that there were statements submitted by the Eastern side and the Western side in June which were a big advance on the statements made originally in March, and that was a worthwhile step.

I appealed to the Commission to use its influence to bring about a resumption of negotiations in the shortest possible time. I suggest that all members of the Commission have a responsibility in this regard, but especially the non-nuclear powers. A clear statement of opinion in favour of negotiation is required.

The Commission has before it the draft resolution submitted by six powers. I fully appreciate the considerable effort which the delegations concerned have made to arrive at an acceptable text. However, the six-power text as submitted, in my view, does not meet that situation, and sincere efforts involving the six delegations and others have failed to bring about sufficient improvement in the draft resolution.

From the Canadian point of view, the operative paragraphs amount to little more than the passing of the whole problem to the fifteenth session of the UN General Assembly. There is no clear call for early negotiations but only a mild expression of hope that efforts will be made to reach a solution. In effect, the result of our important debate here in this Commission, if that draft resolution is adopted, will be to recommend a further debate in the UN General Assembly.

In saying this, I do not dispute that the UN General Assembly has an important role to play and, indeed, a grave responsibility which must be exercised in due course. The Assembly will be required to deal very seriously with the disarmament question when it comes up for discussion, probably not until late October, in the meantime, nothing will be happening