

Even after that Canada, taking the lead in some cases and in other cases co-operating with other friendly powers, tried again to find a well-balanced and reasonable group by way of a suggestion for the composition of the Disarmament Commission that would satisfy the U.S.S.R. Finally there was put before the General Assembly a proposal for the extension and enlargement of the Disarmament Commission to include the members of the Security Council, 11, and Canada, and in addition 13 other countries. That was adopted by the General Assembly to the extent that three-quarters of the governments of every group in the United Nations endorsed it. That proved unacceptable to the U.S.S.R., although at one point in our negotiations we did hope that it might be acceptable to them.

Now that the enlarged Disarmament Commission has been established the U.S.S.R. says it will not participate in its discussions, and our only hope is that it will reconsider its views so we can sit down together to the end that the armament race will not be continued, because as I endeavoured to tell the Political Committee of the United Nations - and I have no desire to indulge in scare headlines here today - the issue is in effect and in essence human survival.

In all these arguments in the Committee and in the General Assembly the U.S.S.R. came back time and time again to its proposal.. The first part of its counter-proposal is that the nations of the world who are members of the UN should resolve to ban the use of nuclear weapons. Since I have come to Ottawa I have had letters from many persons throughout Canada which said, "What a laudable proposal that is from the U.S.S.R."

Now, Sir, one must confess it has an immediate attraction and appeal. "Ban the use of nuclear weapons". I ask you, Sir, and I ask this House why, then, can we not accept this laudable proposal? The answer, the grim answer, is that a promise not to use nuclear weapons is good only until one nation decides to break it. There must be, for our security, a measure of inspection that will ensure that the undertakings in that regard are being carried out. Disarmament cannot be achieved by the stroke of a pen or the mere passing of a resolution....

It is evident that the advances or discoveries in the field of science and technology pose a new and urgent problem in international politics. We cannot solve that problem merely by talking about our endeavours of yesteryear. New scientific weapons and scientific discoveries have provided an urgency about the solution of those problems. Canada, I can assure this house, will endeavour in every way possible to advance further discussion and negotiations with respect to disarmament. For 11 years representatives of Canada have carried on those endeavours, and we hope we can keep the Canadian flag waving in respect of a matter of such vital concern to the human race, at least to make suggestions in negotiating a first-stage agreement with the U.S.S.R.