

We hope the nuclear powers concerned will find it possible to meet and discuss the halting of the arms race in its latest and very discouraging aspect.

There is another measure which my Government believes would significantly slow down the nuclear arms race and also would constitute a move towards further disarmament. I refer to the internationally controlled cessation of the production of fissionable material and the transfer to peaceful purposes of such material which is now being stockpiled for weapons purposes--or the "cut-off and transfer" as it has come to be called. The history of this proposal is, I am sure, well known to all so I shall not go into detail about it. Suffice it to say that, in our view, the implementation of the cut-off and transfer, following an agreement on non-proliferation treaty, would demonstrate that the nuclear powers also are willing to carry on the move toward nuclear disarmament. It would also reassure non-nuclear signatories to an NPT who would have forgone the right to possess nuclear weapons. Finally, it would be a step towards carrying out United Nations recommendations on the desirability of reaching agreement on collateral measures of disarmament.

Specifically there are two features of the cut-off and transfer proposal which Canada finds particularly attractive. First, the rest of the world would benefit from the distribution for peaceful purposes of a large quantity of enriched uranium. Canada has had a fair amount of experience in the field of civil nuclear assistance to various countries and we are therefore particularly aware of the benefits which nuclear energy can bring in the sphere of economic and social development. Second, we consider that the verification procedures, which have been worked out by the United States are relatively simple and unobtrusive. The USSR, up to the present, has not accepted this view and Soviet representatives have characterized these proposals as "control without disarmament" and have charged that verification procedures were simply a cover for the gathering of military intelligence. We cannot subscribe to this view. Rather we share the opinion of the representative of the USA to the ENDC, Mr. William Foster, when he said at its 256th meeting, "To assert that the cut-off and transfer, and weapons destruction proposals" has nothing in common with disarmament "amounts to stating that slowing down has nothing to do with stopping. Had the cut-off of production of fissionable materials been negotiated when it was first proposed, the United States arsenal of weapons today would have been a fraction of its present size. Without a halt in the near future, nuclear stockpiles are bound to grow ever larger, adding to the vast amounts of potential death and destruction."