

these proposals to receive a patient and searching examination in the Ten-Nation Committee, as marking the opening of a phase of detailed, business-like and uninterrupted negotiations. We believe that there should be no hasty, ill-considered reaction to the new Soviet proposals, but the most careful and constructive examination of these proposals in the Committee which circumstances permit. General Burns has been instructed accordingly and I am happy to say that the other members of the Western five on the Committee fully share this view. I am particularly glad to report this unanimous view of the Western representatives because, as the House is aware, the members of the Western group have had their differences from time to time in the past. The Canadian delegation, for its part, has, on several occasions, been instructed to present views contrary to those expressed by other members of the Western five, whenever this seemed warranted. We should not hesitate to authorize the Canadian delegation to follow a similarly independent line again if circumstances so dictated. But for the present, no such need exists, and M. Moch has rightly stressed the solidarity of the Western five. The Western five have advanced their proposals some time ago, and indicated their willingness to enter upon detailed negotiations. The Eastern nations are now speaking in support of the new Soviet proposals of June 2, and have indicated that these provide a basis for negotiation. These latest proposals are now being further explained by the Eastern countries, partly as a result of questioning by the Western members of the Committee. In the course of this clarification on June 9, General Burns pointed to several examples of ways in which the new Soviet proposals represent an advance over earlier Soviet positions -- for instance, with respect to the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction in outer space, the control over launching of rockets for peaceful purposes, the provisions for a joint study of the cessation of production of nuclear weapons and destruction of stockpiles, and the inclusion of measures for peace-keeping machinery, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. In making this statement, General Burns emphasized that the Canadian delegation wished to approach the new Soviet proposals in the most constructive way. He chose the examples I have mentioned because they are among the measures to which the Canadian Government attaches special significance.

Balancing Concessions

"It is my view that the time has come, perhaps through an examination of equivalent features of new Soviet proposals and the Western proposals, to begin a process of negotiation of balanced concessions. This was the sort of 'package' approach to which I referred earlier in the House, when I reported on the NATO Ministerial meeting at Istanbul. I should like to emphasize, however, that by 'package', I do not mean that the one side or the other should hold out for its present proposals on an all-or-nothing basis; the packages I have in mind, as I have tried to explain, are smaller and would contain immediately negotiable provisions of equivalent significance to both sides. The goal would remain general