

Canada is particularly interested in following up the resolutions of the Disarmament Commission, which urged the earliest possible continuation of international negotiations on disarmament. As a member of the Ten-Nation Disarmament Committee, we know that considerable progress was made during the sittings of that Committee.

Progress at Geneva

This is a fact which has not been generally recognized. However, it is clearly evident from a comparison of the original disarmament plans submitted in March by the two sides with those brought forward in June. The revised plan of each side clearly reflected an effort to meet the views of the other and brought the two sides appreciably closer to agreement on many points. The progress made in that Ten-Nation Disarmament Committee should not be thrown away. Today is no time for recrimination and I do not intend to stir up trouble, but I still do not understand why the Eastern five on that Committee decided to walk out of that Committee just as new Western proposals were about to be introduced. I have always thought that was a most unwise action.

In the course of the general debate, a number of suggestions have been made for improving the work of the Disarmament Committee. Canada, for example, has put forward the idea of providing a neutral chairman, and believes that other nations should be invited to assist with technical studies. The First Committee is the proper place to discuss all such suggestions.

Special Role of Non-Nuclear Powers

Every nation represented in this Assembly stands to gain by disarmament and that is particularly true of the non-nuclear powers. The very fact that the non-nuclear powers cannot defend themselves against the nuclear powers makes disarmament a matter of life and death for them. The situation of the non-nuclear powers today is intolerable. They have a special contribution to make in the discussion of this problem. I suggest that contribution can now best be made in the deliberations of the First Committee as that Committee addresses itself to the immediate task of finding a way for the resumption of disarmament negotiations.

There are so many constructive, worthwhile things to do in the world today, so much development is required in every nation in the world, so many peacetime problems to solve.

There is plenty to keep all nations busy, both large and small, without spending so much energy and wasting such vast resources on preparations for a nuclear war.

The key to unlock the door to this happier age is disarmament, and for disarmament negotiating is essential. I suggest that today there is no other road to relaxation of world tension.