

measures to reduce international tensions. It also places on the Conference the responsibility to seize the opportunities presented by the atmosphere of détente in order to reach agreements involving physical measures of disarmament.

To what measure should the Eighteen-Nation Conference give priority? We suggest measures to reduce the risk of surprise attack, such as the establishment of ground observation posts; measures to control the wider dissemination of nuclear weapons; as the Foreign Minister of Ireland suggested; actual physical measures of disarmament, as Lord Home proposed, and continued negotiation towards a comprehensive test-ban agreement. We must continue to proceed step by step, building up that degree of confidence which will enable far-reaching measures of disarmament to be implemented. Although progress has been slow in the Eighteen-Nation Conference, it would be wrong to be discouraged. As in the case of the limited test-ban, and the Austrian State Treaty, a seemingly endless and inconclusive discussion can lead, suddenly, to progress and achievement. We now have the prerequisite for successful negotiations - a world-wide conviction that security cannot be enhanced by the arms race and that countries with different political philosophies share an overriding common interest - that of promoting and achieving world stability through the control and elimination of armaments and the settlement of disputes by peaceful means.

The Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, Mr. Gromyko, in his statement in Plenary Session on September 19, suggested that the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament should convene early next year at the level of heads of government or state. I should like to quote the remarks of the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Lester Pearson, concerning this proposal. On September 25, the Prime Minister said that, "I have always felt that while there are occasions when summit meetings are essential you should be very careful to do all the preparation in the valley before you try to get up to the summit for your meeting. In other words, a summit conference is attended with so much publicity and arouses so much in