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RESUMPTION OF THE EIGHTEEN NATION DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE

The Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, today issued the following statement from Windsor:

"Tomorrow, July 27, the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee resumes its Session in Geneva after an interval of ten months. Canada warmly welcomes the resumption of the work of this Committee.

In our view, the most important issue which the Committee will have before it is that of nuclear proliferation: the mounting threat caused by the spread of nuclear weapons under the control of individual nations. Because of the importance we attach to this issue, we have prepared a draft treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons which we are confident will enable us to make a constructive contribution to these discussions.

Our draft treaty has been discussed informally with our friends and allies in NATO over the past three months, and with a number of other friendly countries. The discussion of the North Atlantic Council today will provide the first opportunity for formal consideration by governments of proposals in this field including our own.

In my address to the World Veterans' Federation in Geneva on May 3, 1965, I pointed out the urgent need for

international action to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. At that time I outlined some of the elements which seemed to me essential to any international agreement in this field.

On June 17, I explained to the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs that our draft treaty was based on the following six elements. These are:

1) A non-dissemination agreement proper based on the Irish resolution, which constitutes the only norm of non-dissemination that has up to now been generally accepted. The agreement on non-dissemination must be based on that resolution.

2) The extension of the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards to the entirety of the non-military atomic programs of all signatories, nuclear and non-nuclear alike, the International Atomic Energy Agency Statute being the only multilaterally agreed instrument which provides a means of verifying that nuclear materials and equipment are not being diverted to military purposes.

3) A collective security guarantee in accordance with which the nuclear powers would come to the assistance of unaligned and neutral non-nuclear states in the event that they are subject to nuclear attack.

4) A complaint instrument or mechanism which, together with safeguards would provide a means of verifying compliance with the commitments undertaken in the agreement based on the Irish resolution, especially with regard to the ban on relinquishing control of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear states.

5) Provisions for implementation or continuation of the treaty only in the event of a sufficient degree of universality of

adherence.

6) Finally, sanctions would be required to dissuade states from ceasing to comply with their undertakings. A limited duration for the treaty would be called for with a view to encouraging the nuclear states to make tangible progress towards nuclear disarmament within a given period.

As I told the House Committee this draft treaty was drawn up as a stimulant to friendly consultation. I am encouraged by the degree of interest which has already been shown in our approach."