

Radio Broadcast  
June 5, 1957

This is Senator Hubert H. Humphrey reporting from my office in Washington.

This week -- after twelve years of frustration and apparently aimless effort -- negotiations on disarmament appear to be entering a serious stage. Right now, in London, representatives of the United States, Great Britain, France, Canada, and the Soviet Union are meeting to determine whether a "first step" toward disarmament may be taken.

At the same time, all over the world a strong and deep reaction has set in against the continued testing of large nuclear weapons -- which is poisoning the atmosphere and raining, we know not what terrible dangers down upon our children and our children's children. This week, the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy of the Congress is taking public testimony from geneticists and radiation experts, and each day brings further grave warnings that the American and Soviet and British tests



may ruin the health and lives of millions of unborn children.

We may still be disappointed, deeply disappointed, and the London disarmament talks may fail completely. But there seems to be at least some hope that the attitude of the leaders of the Soviet Union may have become somewhat more realistic. For some months now, the staff of my special Subcommittee on Disarmament has been compiling the answers to a questionnaire on this subject to a group of the top American experts on the Soviet Union. This has now been released as Staff Study Number Eight of the Subcommittee, and it makes fascinating reading. If you would like to have a copy of this study, just drop me a note, and I will see that you get one.

Although the Russian Communists have not given up their idea and dream of seeing the world dominated by Soviet Communism --



and we all saw and hear Nikita Khrushchev ~~indicate~~ indicate as much on television recently -- they may be beginning to realize that a great war cannot gain them this goal. ~~The leaders of the Soviet Politburo cannot gain them this goal.~~ The leaders of the Soviet Politburo cannot help but realize the frightful consequences of an exchange of nuclear weapons, both to the West and to the Soviet orbit.

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They realize that the East and the West are like two people seated at the kitchen table pointing a loaded and cocked double-barrelled shotgun at each other. Neither one dares to pull the trigger, because it would mean instant retaliation in the flick of an eyelash.

Throughout all these years, both the Russians and our own leaders have tended to propose disarmament measures that would



give all the advantage to one side. I think now that both of us recognize that we must find some common ground -- some area in which we would not have to rely on the other side's good faith. We are searching for measures which emphasize self-enforcement and measures which have provisions for adequate inspection, measures which would tend to pull our respective armed forces further away from each other to prevent an unplanned "incident."

The 12-member bipartisan Subcommittee which I have chaired for almost 18 months is deeply aware that any disarmament agreement will have to be approved by the full Senate. And as Chairman, I have suggested areas of the disarmament question which I believed the Administration should explore.

In several cases, the Administration has moved forward on these suggestions. For example, I have long advocated that ~~we~~



reduction of armaments and armed forces should be undertaken simultaneously with an inspection system -- to insure that the reductions were being carried out. The Russians wanted reduction before inspection. Our Administration proposed inspection without reduction. Now we appear to have agreed at least in principle that inspection and some reduction should be linked.

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My strong effort last fall to bring the Administration to take a statesman-like position on the matter of limiting tests of large nuclear weapons, I regret to say was dismissed as "mere ~~pol~~itics." We are discovering in these past weeks just how wrong that dismissal was! The recognition of the deadliness of these continuing tests, and the realization that we may have other nations manufacturing hydrogen weapons soon, in the coming months, will force both sides to move in the direction of seeking



*Post. cut.* { a test ban on large nuclear weapons-- a ban which would be self-enforceable because instruments can detect when the ban was being violated.

There has been in recent months a growing spirit of cooperation on the part of the Administration toward <sup>our</sup> ~~my~~ Subcommittee. A few days ago for example, during the recess in the critical London disarmament discussions, Secretary of State Dulles and Mr. Stassen met with my subcommittee in an earnest discussion of the negotiations before resuming the talks in London.

In closing, I would like to read you just one paragraph from the lead editorial in the June 1, 1957, Washington Post.

It reads like this:



"On June 30 the Senate Subcommittee on Disarmament is scheduled to go out of existence unless its life is prolonged. We think that in one form or another the work of the Subcommittee ought to be continued. Since its creation nearly two years ago, the Subcommittee under the chairmanship of Sen. Hubert Humphrey has conducted extensive hearings and published some extremely useful studies in the general area of arms control. It has been valuable in broadening the knowledge of its members in both parties. The cost has been insignificant, and the Subcommittee's contributions to greater understanding of the issues ought to be maintained, especially in view of the hopes for some sort of limited agreement with the Russians...."

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(~~Whatever the precise formula,~~ The work needs to be



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kept alive as a symbol of the Senate's concern  
with a subject that affects every American."

This is Senator Hubert H. Humphrey. Thank you and goodbye until  
next week.





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