

WHY CANADA STRESSES VERIFICATION

Canada believes that verification is the single most important element in international arms control and disarmament negotiations.

Why is that so? What is Canada doing to advance the techniques of verification? How can the United Nations strengthen a verification system? These are the questions I want to focus on in this second address in the Soviet Union as I discuss Canada's role in the International Year of Peace.

At the outset we must recognize that it is unfortunately true that arms control agreements cannot be negotiated on the basis of trust alone. The highly sophisticated nature of today's weapons means that, in order to be meaningful and durable, arms control and disarmament agreements must have provisions that ensure compliance and build confidence in the validity and integrity of a treaty. Because arms control agreements are directly related to the security of signatory nations, effective verification measures are vital.