

An arms reduction agreement had to be universal in scope. It must be balanced among the competing confrontational groups of countries. It must also be verifiable. The Canadian amendment No. 2 (see Annex G.2, Part A, p. 57) which had been submitted had been brought forward as a result of the disappointing outcome of the Second United Nations Special Session on Disarmament. The Canadian delegation felt that it would help to update the Lagos resolution of the I.P.U.

In addition, there was also disappointment in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Madrid, which had proved to be non-productive.

Finally, he appealed to parliamentarians at this Conference to put behind them their loyalties to their own Governments for a moment. Now was the opportunity to bring sense and sensibility to their respective Governments so that those Governments could succeed where so far they had failed. They must force their Governments to the realisation that disarmament was critical to the future of mankind. The challenge of this meeting was to do exactly that.

For his part, Senator P. Bosa said that all the speeches that he had heard, whether from the East, the West, or the Third World had agreed that armaments had to be reduced. He wondered why so little progress had been made with disarmament and, that in fact, nations were developing more destructive weapons than before.

Perhaps the international community was addressing itself to the wrong issue. He wondered whether they should not consider why arms expenditure remained at such a high level.

According to Senator Bosa, the quality of life could be improved if military expenditures were diverted to peaceful purposes, but arms limitation would not necessarily ensure peace. A two-thirds reduction in nuclear weapons would leave enough behind to destroy the planet. The threat posed by armaments was inextricably bound up with complex ethnic, religious and political conflicts.

Senator Bosa continued, he compared world conditions with those in Canada. In Canada, there were geographic disputes, Anglo-French linguistic difficulties, 78 ethnic groups, religious differences, and social and economic disparities. Nevertheless, Canada had never had a major war or revolution within its borders. It was possible to overcome difficulties and work for the common good. Problems such as conscription, the national flag, and patriation of the Constitution, had generated bitterness and divisions, but in the end they had been overcome.

Canadians, continued Senator Bosa, had overcome their differences without violence. There were two official languages, but they had developed a policy of multiculturalism under which all groups were treated equally. The same approach was needed internationally - a willingness to compromise and to see each others' point of view. According to Senator Bosa, this was the only hope for disarmament and Canada was a microcosm for the world.