

proposed that an early start be made on a treaty banning all weapons from outer space. He also announced that Canada would allocate more funds for arms control and disarmament initiatives, particularly in the field of verification.

Agenda for disarmament

The First Special Session on Disarmament called for the elaboration by the Geneva Committee on Disarmament of a Comprehensive Program for Disarmament (CPD). The priorities had been listed: nuclear weapons; other weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons; conventional weapons; and reduction of armed forces. After several years of work, the lengthy document that was submitted by the Committee on Disarmament was studded with brackets around unagreed paragraphs, sentences and even individual words.

The CPD was heralded as the "centrepiece" of UNSSOD II, and renewed and intensive efforts were undertaken during the session in an attempt to achieve agreement on a compromise consensus text. One major area of disagreement was on the question of setting time limits or target dates for the achievement of measures of disarmament. The non-aligned states, with some support from the Socialist states, wanted such time limits or even "indicative dates" and argued for four five-year stages, but the Western countries argued that fixing deadlines would be harmful to the negotiations.

The Western powers took much more rigid and unyielding positions at UNSSOD II than at UNSSOD I and in a few cases would not even accept the language of the Final Document of UNSSOD I. In the absence of any disposition to compromise, it was not possible to reach any consensus and the CPD was referred back to the Committee on Disarmament with the request that a revised draft be re-submitted to the regular session of the General Assembly in 1983. The failure to reach agreement on this centrepiece of its efforts meant that UNSSOD II had failed in its main task.

The other main issue before UNSSOD II was the question of a World Disarmament Campaign. The mobilization of public opinion in favor of disarmament was called for in the Final Document of UNSSOD I, and the General Assembly at its 1981 regular session approved the launching of the campaign. Thus the President announced its formal launching at the opening meeting of UNSSOD II. The campaign is intended to promote public interest in and support for the goals and program set out in the Final Document of UNSSOD I. The non-aligned and Socialist states strongly supported the campaign, while the Western states were lukewarm, fearing that the campaign would be aimed mainly at them but with only limited possibilities of access to the public in the Socialist states.

After a lengthy bargaining process, the Working Group trying to reach a consensus on the guidelines for the campaign reached agreement at the last moment on a text which set out the objectives, the content and the modalities of the campaign. Both the Socialist and Western states, perhaps influenced by the insistent demands of the public and massive demonstrations, made compromises so that an equitable document emerged. The Canadian Delegation played an active and leading role in achieving the consensus agreement on the World Disarmament Campaign.

Thus, the main achievement of UNSSOD II — albeit a modest one — was the World Disarmament Campaign.

New issues

Early in the session two new issues emerged which, although not specifically listed as agenda items, were to receive major attention.

The concept of a nuclear freeze was the chief new development at the session and it quickly became the "hottest" issue. The USSR, Canada, India, Mexico and Sweden referred to the freeze in their main addresses in the general debate.

Foreign Minister Gromyko elaborated somewhat on President Brezhnev's message by the following:

It is likewise very important to securely block all channels for the continuation of the strategic arms race in any form. That means that the development of new types of strategic weapons should be either banned or limited to the extent possible by agreed parameters.

Prime Minister Trudeau proposed marrying the technological freeze envisioned in the "strategy of suffocation" to the current INF and START negotiations in a policy of stabilization. While the Prime Minister's speech did not meet the expectations of many Canadians and some UN Delegations who had hoped he would support a complete nuclear freeze, it was regarded by many observers at the UN as the best statement made by any NATO member.

It was not possible to reach a consensus on any of the freeze proposals but, since it was felt that they deserved further study, it was decided that they should be transmitted to the Geneva Committee on Disarmament and to the next regular session of the General Assembly. Since the Committee on Disarmament also works on the basis of consensus, it is most unlikely that any of the proposals will be approved there. But since the General Assembly takes decisions by a two-thirds majority vote, it is likely that one or more draft resolutions will receive overwhelming approval by that body.

The other major new issue was the Prevention of Nuclear War. While this question had been raised indirectly by the Soviet Union in the general debate, it was formally introduced by Bulgaria in one of the Working Groups. The Bulgarian proposal referred to "the deterioration in the international situation, the growth of nuclear arsenals, the increase in accuracy, speed and destructive power of nuclear weapons, the promotion of dangerous doctrines of 'limited' or 'winnable' nuclear war and the many false alarms which have occurred owing to malfunctioning of computers." It proposed, as a first step "the use of nuclear weapons and the waging of nuclear war should be outlawed." It welcomed the declarations of no-first-use of nuclear weapons and called on the nuclear-weapon states which have not assumed that obligation to do so. It also called on the nuclear-weapon states to show restraint and responsibility and to act in such a way as to eliminate the risk of the outbreak of a nuclear conflict.

Several nations, including West Germany, The Netherlands and Japan presented papers, and India and Mexico submitted draft resolutions on the Prevention of Nuclear War. Because of the opposition of the Western powers, it was not possible to reach any consensus and it was decided to transmit them to the appropriate bodies for further consideration. If the Indian and Mexican draft