

relationships, including the special one we have with the United States.

The defence and security of North America are continuing priorities that require ongoing attention to ensure that they, like NATO, NACC, and the CSCE, are positioned to deal with the new political and strategic realities.

Together, Canada and the U.S. operate in more than 160 bilateral defence-related forums and have several hundred defence agreements for carrying out activities. These range from the 52-year old Permanent Joint Board on Defence, which meets twice a year, to regular, annual political-security consultations. The jointly commanded North American Aerospace Defence (NORAD), renewed for five years in April 1991, is a highly visible symbol of our continued commitment to bilateral defence co-operation.

Taken together, these mechanisms allow both countries ample opportunity to advance their respective points of view and to respond to a changing world.

#### Arms Control and Non-proliferation

While we have advanced our ability to deal with the reasons for conflicts, we have also made great strides in dealing with the means for conflict.

In the last year, we have seen significant reductions in the nuclear and conventional military capacities of the U.S., the former Soviet Union and the other major European powers. The U.S., France and Russia have declared moratoria on nuclear testing.

The Chemical Weapons Convention, successfully concluded after 20 years of painstaking negotiations, bans an entire class of weapons. Progress is being made toward finding more effective ways to verify the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. However, there is still much to be done.

The international non-proliferation agenda is far from exhausted. But there is a new willingness to work together on this agenda. For example, the international community's deep concern over Iraq's clandestine nuclear weapons program underlines the problems that still need to be addressed.

Canada is strongly pursuing the comprehensive non-proliferation agenda laid out by the Prime Minister last year. First and foremost, we must work toward achieving universal accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and its indefinite extension at the NPT Extension Conference in 1995.