

in part to the difficulty of devising adequate verification procedures that would be politically acceptable to all parties; there are also problems in defining substances which would be banned and in determining with precision the nature of activities falling within the treaty's scope. Nevertheless, useful work was carried out by the CCD in 1972 in exploring the technical aspects of a chemical weapons prohibition; member delegations submitted working papers on a variety of problems and an informal meeting of experts was held which saw a useful exchange of views on technical questions. Canada submitted a working paper on the toxicity of chemical substances "which examined methods of estimation of toxicity and applications of the technique to a chemical weapons control agreement".

At the last UN General Assembly, Canada co-sponsored a resolution which reaffirmed the objective of effective prohibition of chemical weapons, requested the CCD to continue negotiations toward this objective, and called for the widest possible adherence to the biological weapons convention and to the Geneva Protocol.

### **Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT)**

In terms of the world power balance, the most significant development relating to arms control in 1972 was the signature by the USA and the USSR of agreements on the limitation of strategic arms. These agreements, which were signed at Moscow in May, include:

- a treaty of indefinite duration under which each party agreed not to deploy ABM systems or components, except for two complexes—one for the national capital and one for an ICBM field;
- an interim agreement freezing for five years the numbers of intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launchers and submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) launchers;
- a protocol fixing the numbers of SLBMs and ballistic missile submarines and allowing the replacement of land-based missile launchers by SLBMs within established limits; and
- agreed interpretations and unilateral declarations.

Provision was also made for the creation of a standing USA-USSR Consultative Committee to consider the implementation of these agreements and related matters.

On November 21, 1972, the United States and the USSR resumed negotiations at Geneva with the aim of achieving a definite treaty on the limitation of offensive weapons systems. The USA has followed the practice of consulting its NATO allies on the substance of SALT. These consultations have afforded Canada an opportunity to make known its views on the negotiations, which, though bilateral in form, concern the security of the international community as a whole.

### **Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions (MBFR)**

With the improvement of the political climate in Europe in recent years, both NATO and the Warsaw Pact countries have turned their attention to seeking stable solutions to the problems of European security. The Atlantic alliance, in examining ways in which to promote such a stable solution, has proceeded from the premise that a reduction in the level of armed confrontation in Central Europe between the two military alliances could be an important contribution to a long-term solution of the European security problem. Canada accordingly played a significant role in deliberations within the alliance during 1972, aimed at laying the groundwork for a meaningful conference to discuss the question of MBFR with the Warsaw Pact.

A major breakthrough occurred with the decision to begin exploratory talks on European security in two different forums—one in Helsinki and one in Vienna. The Helsinki talks, which began on November 22 with 32 European states, have been primarily concerned with political, economic and cultural issues and their implication for European security. The Vienna meeting, which opened on January 31, 1973, has as its aim the preparation of a full-scale conference on force reductions in Central Europe. It is expected that such a conference will begin in the autumn of 1973, and will be limited to members of NATO and the Warsaw Pact as it is primarily the forces of these alliances which confront each other in that area.