
states assign to the conclusion of a convention prohibiting the use of chemical weapons.

A useful aspect of the CCD's work during 1975 was its preliminary discussion with experts of the possibility of prohibiting action to modify the environment for military or other hostile purposes. Canada welcomes the efforts of the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. in this field and believes that the CCD should continue its discussions with a view to negotiating a convention.

We have been asked this year to explore another new subject -- the possibility of negotiating an agreement to prohibit the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and of new systems of such weapons. Certainly, we hope that it will be possible for the international community to avoid the development and manufacture of new kinds of weapons of mass destruction and to achieve effective agreements to that end. However, we find it difficult to foresee what steps or agreements would be most appropriate and how compliance with such agreements could be adequately verified until we have a clear idea of the specific kinds of weapon or weapon system this proposal envisages. Moreover, we must not forget that nuclear-weapon states already have weapons of horrifying destructiveness and that efforts to limit and reduce these existing weapons should have first priority.

While recognizing the overriding danger of nuclear weapons to the entire international community and seeking to avoid the development of other weapons of mass destruction, we must not lose sight of the tragic consequences of the use of conventional weapons over the past 30 years. As the Secretary-General noted in the introduction to his 1975 report on the work of the United Nations, global expenditures on armaments are approaching \$300 billion a year. An overwhelming portion of this amount is being spent for conventional weapons. Weaponry in increasing quantity and sophistication is being acquired by both developed and developing countries.

There have been repeated expressions of concern in this Assembly about ever-larger military expenditures. Last year the Assembly received an experts' report on the reduction of military budgets. The report is a useful examination of the technical and conceptual problems involved in the measurement of military expenditures, but is only a preliminary examination of a complex subject. We are interested in a suggestion made in the CCD that a comprehensive experts' examination of the "definitional" and conceptual aspects of this subject might be undertaken under CCD auspices.

While further study is given to the feasibility of the budgetary
