

and Confidence-Building Measures in Europe. The results of this Conference bring new openness and predictability to the conduct of military affairs in Europe. The establishment of agreed procedures for air and ground on-site inspections is a landmark achievement, -- one which will provide an effective basis for other arms control negotiations.

More broadly still, the United Nations Disarmament Commission has had a relatively productive session. The guidelines for confidence-building measures which the UNDC will report to the General Assembly, like the Stockholm Conference Document, should provide a useful basis for future negotiators. They could be drawn on to ensure those elements of confidence, compliance and verification which will be essential components of all effective arms control agreements.

The Conference on Disarmament in Geneva has also had a more productive session: if it has still not reached agreement on a Global Chemical Weapons ban, detailed negotiations are intensifying and there have been welcome signs that the Soviet Union is prepared to move forward on verification. We have particularly noted the proposal of the United Kingdom on challenge inspection, which we hope will provide a basis for practical progress on one of the most difficult issues associated with a Global Chemical Weapons ban.

But the sense of positive accomplishment does not extend to other issues on the Conference on Disarmament agenda. We are frankly disappointed that progress on a comprehensive nuclear test ban has been so slow. We were particularly discouraged at the failure to agree on a practical mandate for a subsidiary body to work constructively towards an agreed test ban. We note and welcome that the Soviet Union has taken a more forthcoming approach on technical matters relating to the establishment of a global seismic monitoring network. The Australian proposal for an International Seismic Network is both consistent with Canada's concern for a reliably verifiable test ban, and an encouraging step towards the objective of a comprehensive test ban. Expert-level talks between Soviet and US scientists on nuclear testing are a welcome development -- one which all of us hope can provide yet another step towards our common goal.

The prevention of an arms race in outer space is a high priority for Canada. It was thus disappointing that the mandate for the subsidiary body on outer space was agreed so late in the last CD session. Once the mandate was agreed, discussion was both sober and thoughtful. The existing mandate is clearly demonstrating its usefulness.