

Canadian security policy in the past 30 years has been based on three foundations of peace: first, deterrence of war through collective defence represented by participation in NATO and NORAD; second, verifiable arms control and disarmament agreements; and third, mechanisms and arrangements for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

When it was clear that the collective arrangements for peace provided for under the United Nations Charter were not going to be allowed to work, it became imperative to make other security arrangements. Canada joined with others in creating the North Atlantic Alliance in 1949 and has since contributed to the collective deterrence and defence capacity of NATO.

For the Canadian government, along with defence capacity, security also requires the search for arms control. If the armaments spiral is ever to be broken, verifiable arms control and disarmament agreements must be concluded. Arms control and disarmament is the pursuit of undiminished security at lower levels of armaments and expenditure. The step-by-step approach takes time, beginning with the mutual perception of security which can lead to agreements to limit arms and to control their development and deployment. Once arms competition is contained, efforts can be focused on reductions, which would continue to reflect that same approximate security balance.

The prospects for concluding arms control and disarmament agreements continue to be limited. The postponement of consideration of ratification of SALT II (Strategic Arms Limitations Talks) by the U.S. Senate followed the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December, 1979. The review of arms control and disarmament policies by the new U.S. administration should result in a new start in the SALT process. At the last NATO Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Rome, which I attended, the United States reaffirmed the intention of the previous administration to go forward with discussions on the limitation of theatre nuclear forces. Negotiations on a comprehensive test ban treaty and on a ban on chemical weapons have continued to be protracted.

It is, indeed, in the process of peacemaking that real disarmament progress is likely to be registered. Many of the crisis spots in the world are not cast in ideological and imperial terms as is the current case between the East and the West. The vast majority of disputes, particularly in the Third World, are regional in scope and often reflect deep-seated and historical quarrels in relation to local and ill-defined issues. Canada has been active in seeking solutions to international conflicts.