

Canada is in agreement with the provisions of Article VIII, as now revised. We welcome the inclusion of language which makes possible periodic review of how the objects of both the Treaty and the preamble are being achieved.

As we have said before, we consider that, in Article IX, 40 ratifications is about the number which should be required to bring the Treaty into force. In view of the importance of this Treaty, the Canadian Government hopes that it will come into effect with the minimum of delay.

The provisions of Article X are completely acceptable to my delegation.

Turning now from the Treaty itself, I should like to comment briefly on an equally important and closely-related subject. We have from time to time voiced a concern that the question of security assurances has not yet been dealt with in our Committee's negotiations. We have, of course, appreciated the complexities and the difficulties of reaching an agreement of this kind. Therefore we greatly welcome the recent tripartite agreement on this issue. We have long been convinced that the non-aligned non-nuclear-weapon states parties to the Treaty have a legitimate claim to be protected against nuclear intimidation and attack, in return for their renunciation of the right to acquire nuclear weapons.

The Canadian Government believes that the agreement between the United States, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom, as expressed in statements by the representatives of those powers at our meeting on March 7, advances very considerably the possibilities of general acceptance of the Non-Proliferation Treaty - which it regards as so fundamentally necessary at this time. The proposed resolution and accompanying declarations, furthermore, would constitute an obligation of the nuclear powers, thus giving further recognition to the principle that there should be an appropriate balance of mutual obligations and responsibilities in and relating to a Non-Proliferation Treaty.

In conclusion, I would say that it appears to the Canadian delegation that the draft Treaty now before us approaches the optimum reconciliation of the varying interests and concerns of the nations in the world today in regard to this problem. The governments we represent must take their decisions in the light of the dangers and tensions of the present and, more importantly, in the light of the greater tensions and dangers which will certainly develop if they do nothing to check the spread of nuclear weapons and, following that, to halt the nuclear arms race.

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