

...The need is obvious. The goal is unquestionable. I cannot think of a higher priority for the OAS to pursue at this time.⁵

At the 1991 OAS General Assembly Canada drafted and sponsored Resolution 1121, which, *inter alia*, requested the Permanent Council to study the problems posed by the proliferation of the instruments of war and weapons of mass destruction. A companion resolution, sponsored by Honduras, established a working group to study and make recommendations to the Permanent Council. During the course of the year Canada submitted a number of working papers to the Working Group. These became the basis for Resolution 2892 approved by the General Assembly at the Nassau meeting.

Resolution 2892 covered a wide range of arms control and disarmament issues, including the need to prevent all forms of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missile delivery systems. It urged member states to "exchange information about their national policies, laws and administrative procedures governing the transfer of conventional arms and dual-use technologies, materials and equipment which could be used in nuclear, chemical, biological or missile weapons programs." In respect to conventional arms, it urged restraint in arms transfers, the support and adoption of confidence-building measures, and adherence to the United Nations Arms Register. In respect to the hemisphere, it called for special attention to the security problems of small states in order to decrease their vulnerability to a variety of threats ranging from natural disasters to narco-trafficking.

In a companion resolution, the General Assembly instructed the Permanent Council to establish a special committee on hemispheric security "to continue consideration of the agenda on cooperation for hemispheric security."⁶

PARLIAMENTARY COMMENT

There was no comment on the OAS as such in the House of Commons this year. For comments on human rights, Haiti and Peru, see entries under those titles.

⁵ Secretary of State for External Affairs. "An Address by the Hon. Barbara McDougall, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the 22nd Annual General Assembly of the Organization of American States, Nassau, Bahamas," *Statement*, 92/19, 19 May 1992.

⁶ General Assembly of the OAS, AG/doc 2882/92, 20 May 1992, "Cooperation for Hemispheric Security"; AG/doc 2992, 21 May 1992.