

matter of new items for its agenda, we remain stymied despite intensive efforts during the last General Assembly, during the Resumed Session and during the 1993 session of the Disarmament Commission itself. Canada hopes that delegations will redouble their efforts towards finding a timely solution to this procedural problem so that we can turn our full attention to the substance of the work before us....

Reform and Revitalization

Disarmament at its core is concerned with creating the conditions under which countries will place less reliance on armaments and more reliance on alternative processes for ensuring their viability and well-being against all manner of threats, however defined. During the post-Cold War era of interdependence, integration and globalization at the international level, in contrast to increasing tribalization and fragmentation at the local level, it seems clear that the tools for building such alternative mechanisms must be increasingly regionally and cooperatively based.

In this new institution-building process, the United Nations has both a "top down" or global/normative/framework role to play and a "bottom up" or operational role to play, the latter at the regional, sub-regional and local levels.

Arms control and disarmament — both in the strict sense of negotiating agreements to limit/control/manage armaments and in the broader sense of building confidence among nations by promoting greater openness in military matters — are tools in the process of building collective/cooperative security, just as preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping and peacebuilding are tools to this end. All aspects along this continuum need to be addressed if the goal of collective/cooperative security is to be reached. Countries must be encouraged to develop concrete mechanisms to prevent and to resolve disputes peacefully. For such mechanisms to work, there must be an ever-enlarging consensus on the proper role of power, armaments, the use of force and, above all, on the limits of the use of force.

From this perspective, then, arms control and disarmament relates to cooperative efforts (at every level from local to global) to control the use of force and to promote collective security based on agreed rules of interstate, and increasingly intrastate, behaviour, including rules on

the use of force.

This assessment of the post-Cold War disarmament agenda and its implications for the multilateral disarmament machinery has led Canada to identify three goals in the reform and revitalization process: (1) practical integration of arms control and disarmament into the broader international security agenda in the work of the First Committee, along with its more effective functioning; (2) strengthening of the Centre for Disarmament Affairs as the institutional focal point of these efforts; and (3) increased priority to regional approaches to disarmament and to the "regional role" of the UN in this regard....

Canada strongly endorses the measures that the Secretary-General has taken to ensure that the UN Centre for Disarmament Affairs is fully capable of meeting the new opportunities and challenges we face. In particular, Canada shares the view that the Centre's work should be more directly geared to the Organization's efforts in the field of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacebuilding and peacekeeping. Indeed, Canada believes that a very good start, under very difficult circumstances, has already been made to this end. I refer to the work of the three UN Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament, together with the UN-sponsored program of regional conferences.

I have been privileged to have been involved in the "Katmandu" regional cooperative security dialogue process since 1991. This "track two" process under the auspices of the Asia Pacific UN Regional

Centre has been instrumental in promoting discussions on confidence-building and transparency, non-proliferation in its global and regional dimensions, and conflict prevention and resolution. Such work by the United Nations in the regional context is an essential complement to activities at the global level....

Concrete steps have also been taken to rationalize the procedures in the First Committee. We commend in particular the full integration of our work on arms control and international security questions. Given this procedural breakthrough, delegations will have to work hard to ensure that the substance of the resolutions on the maintenance of international security are equally forward looking.... [T]he central question of how to integrate the work of the First Committee into the broader international security context so as to deepen understanding of the concepts of preventive diplomacy, confidence-building and post-conflict peace-preserving measures...is work we must tackle in earnest if we are ever to be able to get beyond the thin veneer of agreement that currently exists on the practical implementation of global norms in concrete situations.

A genuine consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation norms lies at the heart of any enduring system of international peace and security. Under your able guidance, Mr. Chairman, we have begun the task in earnest of ensuring that the multilateral disarmament machinery plays its full part in elaborating that consensus. ■

First Report of UN Arms Register

On October 18, the Secretary-General presented to the UN General Assembly the first report of the UN Register of Conventional Arms. The report gives data on 79 countries' imports and exports of seven categories of conventional weapons systems for the year 1992. This is the first time in history that governments have made such data public as part of an international reporting exercise.

All major arms exporting countries supplied data, with the exception of South Africa and North Korea. Among importing states, major non-reporters include Saudi Arabia, Iran, Thailand, Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates and Syria. However, the data reported by major exporters makes

public the majority of arms transferred to these states. It has been estimated that more than 98 percent of arms exported in the seven categories during 1992 are publicized in the Register.

States participating in the register listed the transfer of 1,733 tanks, 1,625 armoured combat vehicles, 270 combat aircraft, 40 attack helicopters, 40 warships and 67,878 missiles and missile launchers. The US remained the principal exporter of arms in these categories, followed by Germany. Greece and Turkey were the major recipients of arms, due to the "cascade" effect of European states reducing inventories to meet the levels established by the CFE Treaty. ■