

entitled "Urgent Need for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty."⁵ Speaking to the First Committee on 16 October 1990, Ambassador Mason appeared to underline the need for faster progress:

On nuclear testing, Canada welcomes the fact that the United States and the Soviet Union have concluded verification protocols to the 1974 and 1976 treaties and that these two treaties will soon be ratified. While this step, in the eyes of many, was overdue, we believe that it represents an important basis upon which further restrictions on nuclear testing can be negotiated. In his plenary statement, [Secretary of State Joe Clark] welcomed the joint American and Soviet statement to a step-by-step approach to further restrictions on nuclear testing. He then went on to state Canada's belief that that commitment should be followed up immediately.⁶

Addressing the Amendment Conference, Ambassador Mason again reiterated:

Canada's belief that the United States and the Soviet Union should immediately follow up their commitment to negotiate further restrictions on nuclear testing with the final goal of a comprehensive ban...

In what appeared to signal a slight shift in Canadian policy, she continued:

Canada urges the two states concerned to negotiate further limitations on their respective nuclear testing programs, that could include both limits on the number and yield of tests as intermediary measures on the road to a conclusion of an effective and verifiable CTBT at an early date.⁷

On 18 January 1990, the Amendment Conference concluded its work, making a decision by recorded vote on the declaration quoted above. Seventy-four countries voted for the declaration, while the United States and United Kingdom voted against. Along with eighteen other countries, Canada abstained.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMENT

On Wednesday 16 January 1991, Liberal MP Warren Allmand, Chairman of Parliamentarians for Global Action, made a Statement in the House calling attention to the Amendment Conference. He commented:

⁵UN Resolution 45/51, 4 December 1990. The resolution passed with a vote of 140-2-6, France and the US voted against.

⁶Department of External Affairs. "Canadian Statement to First Committee," *Disarmament Bulletin*, Winter 1990/91: 16-17.

⁷"Statement by Ambassador Peggy Mason to the Amendment Conference," *Press Release*, no. 1. New York, 10 January 1990.