

CONFIDENCE BUILDING

Secretary of State for External Affairs (Third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament (UNSSOD III), New York, June 13, 1988.)

Canada sees confidence-building as essential to arms control and disarmament. We regard the concepts of openness, transparency and predictability as imperative. The establishment of agreed procedures for inspections at the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe in September 1986 is an accomplishment which stands as a precedent and model for other arms control negotiations, at bilateral or regional levels.

The principles essential to the success of confidence-building measures should be promoted on every occasion. In this regard, we urge members of the United Nations to comply with the General Assembly recommendation on reporting annual military expenditures. Only 20 or so countries regularly comply with this recommendation. It is a small step, but we cannot hope to take larger steps without more members of this Assembly giving effect to our own recommendations.

(SEE ALSO ARMS REGISTRY, OBJECTIVES AND UNITED NATIONS)

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Minister of National Defence, (Empire Club, Toronto, January 15, 1987)

Reductions in nuclear weapons alone are not sufficient to enhance our security. The debate continues to centre on whether it is weapons or people and their political systems which cause conflicts. The truth is it is probably both to some extent. Competition in arms may indeed fuel mistrust, and temporary advantage may encourage adventurism. However, the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and the fostering of mechanisms to bridge the differences that give rise to mistrust and conflict, are absolutely essential if we are to build a better and safer world. If conflicts are to be resolved in non-military ways, then each and every one of us bears a responsibility for encouraging the processes of conflict resolution and peace-making.

(SEE ALSO CENTRAL AMERICA, PEACEKEEPING AND SECURITY POLICY)