

Canada brings to this crucial conference a sense of hope and a sense of confidence that our joint efforts in the coming month will be another building block for true and lasting peace in the world. The Non-Proliferation Treaty has more adherents than any other international security treaty, and the number is continuing to expand. This Third Review provides an opportunity for us to send a strong signal throughout the world community for our renewed determination to eliminate nuclear weapons everywhere.

Not the least reason for Canada's expectation of a successful conference is the fact that the presidency is in such competent hands. Your dedication to the NPT, Ambassador Shaker, your scholarliness, your experience, and your global approach will lead us forward together. Another reason for optimism at the beginning is found in the intensity of the preparation; a combination of circumstances has enabled this conference to be better prepared than its predecessors, and here we must thank the chairmen of the three preparatory conferences, Ambassador Imai of Japan, Ambassador Vejvoda of Czechoslovakia, and Ambassador Dhanapala of Sri Lanka for their leadership. The fact that the three working committees of this conference will be chaired by those same three outstanding representatives is further indication that where sincerity and capability meet in a common cause, positive results can be obtained. Many parliamentarians, officials, scholars and non-governmental organizations have also contributed in diverse and important ways to the building of a higher level of world concern about nuclear proliferation. All informed observers want, and expect, us to turn the world away from all nuclear proliferation. And do that, we must.

Mr. President, no one under-estimates the gravity of the present situation in the world; there are too many nuclear weapons in existence, and the potential for further development, in quality and quantity, is too strong. There are inequalities among states, resentments, fears. We have to deal with all these reactions. But in the end, logic compels, history demands and the people of the world plead that governments build the process of order, not degenerate into anarchy. Any weakening of the NPT will lead to the very condition -- nuclear anarchy -- that we are pledged to prevent. The implications of nuclear proliferation are so dangerous for all that we must find a realistic way to constrain such an unacceptable threat to common security and stability. In short, the existing nuclear arms race must cease and the spread of nuclear arms blocked off to prevent nuclear anarchy.