

for curbing the nuclear arms race," said the Prime Minister.

If the strategy is to be effective all the elements are essential, said Mr. Trudeau. He added that a technological freeze is fundamental to controlling the arms race and that it should be "enfolded into a more general policy of stabilization".

"Thus a policy of stabilization has two complementary components; the suffocation strategy which seeks to inhibit the development of new weapons systems and our current negotiating approach aimed at qualitative and quantitative reductions in nuclear arsenals designed to achieve a stable nuclear balance at lower levels," said the Prime Minister.

Mr. Trudeau proposed to the assembly that an early start be made on a treaty to prohibit the development, testing and deployment of all weapons for use in outer space.

In his address, Prime Minister Trudeau also referred to the practice of verification which he said the international community should view as one of the most important factors in disarmament negotiations. "Verification is not only a matter of access. Verification entails a technology of its own that differs from weapons system to weapons system. Therefore, ideally, the work on verification should prepare the way for arms control agreements that still lie ahead; otherwise, problems of verification will inevitably prevent the conclusion of even well advanced arms control negotiations," he said.

Canada is allocating increased funds for arms control and disarmament initiatives, Mr. Trudeau continued. First, the government is providing resources so that Canada can participate in the international data exchange, the international verification mechanism which will be part of a comprehensive test ban treaty. "We believe that the exchange should be fully operational at an early date and in advance of the treaty," he said. Secondly Canada will enhance research in verification and will attempt to use both public and private expertise in Canada to develop more effective verification procedures, said Mr. Trudeau.

In conclusion, Prime Minister Trudeau told the session: "When the security of the world and the fate of the human race are at stake, all governments have a duty to raise their voices on behalf of the societies they represent. Above all they have a duty to bring to an end our collective impotence in the face of nuclear peril."

East coast exploration agreements

The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources has announced the conclusion of the first exploration agreements between representatives of both the federal and Nova Scotia governments and Shell Canada Resources Limited, the operator on all the lands covered by the agreements.

The six agreements totalling \$263 million and involving 3.8 million hectares on the Scotian Slope have been approved by the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Oil and Gas Board which was established under the Canada-Nova Scotia offshore agreement in March to manage oil and gas activity off the coast of Nova Scotia.

Six wells to be drilled

Using the drilling rig Sedco 709, built in Halifax for its program, Shell Resources Limited and its partners will drill six deep water wells under the terms of the agreements. Two of the agreements have six-year terms and four agreements have four-year terms.

The Canada Oil and Gas Act, proclaimed March 5, 1982 calls for all existing oil and gas interests in the Canada Lands — offshore areas and the North — to be renegotiated during the coming months. The Canada Oil and Gas Lands Administration (COGLA) is responsible for negotiating the exploration agreements and establishing the blocks of land on which a company will work.

Through COGLA, Shell must still obtain approval for all phases of its work, including the drilling programs and specific work approvals for each well it wants to drill. Through regulations and conditions strictly controlling all work, COGLA will ensure that environmental and occupational health and safety concerns are met.

Increased Canadian ownership

COGLA also sets out the selection process by which exploration agreement lands are returned to the Crown for future disposition. During the terms of the Shell agreements, 50 per cent of the land covered in the agreements will be returned to the Crown.

In announcing the agreement, federal Energy Minister Marc Lalonde pointed out that the Canada Benefits plan submitted by Shell Resources Limited is an important feature related to the agreements. Shell will ensure that Canadians, particularly Nova Scotians, will be given

a fair and competitive opportunity to provide goods and services for the exploration program. It is expected there will be 254 positions available by 1984, 97 per cent of them going to Canadians and 87 per cent of those to workers from Nova Scotia.

The present Canadian ownership rate (COR) for most of these agreements is estimated to be 6.3 per cent. When the full interests in the farm-out agreements have been earned, the COR is expected to rise to 29.6 per cent. In the area known as the South Acadia Block, it is estimated that the COR will rise from 33.2 per cent to 44.8 per cent. These figures are exclusive of the Crown's right to a 25 per cent share.

Health act planned

Federal, provincial and territorial ministers of health met in Ottawa last month to discuss proposals which would lead to a new Canada Health Act.

The new legislation would consolidate existing legislation and clarify the national standards for insured medical and hospital services. It would replace the existing Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act and the Medical Care Act. The Canada Health Act is expected to be tabled in the House of Commons next spring.

The federal proposals for the Act are aimed at ensuring access to high quality care for all residents of Canada. Under the proposals 100 per cent of qualified residents would be covered. Insured services would include all medically required services of medical practitioners and certain surgical-dental procedures carried out by dentists in hospitals and all necessary in-patient and out-patient care in hospitals and related types of institutions.

In addition, the federal government proposed that all Canadian residents should be entitled to: a sufficient quantity of insured services; an equitable geographic distribution of insured services; availability of insured services when needed; acceptable quality of insured services; and delivery of insured health services without financial barriers.

Federal Health Minister Monique Bégin, in putting forward the proposals, indicated that in order to keep health care accessible to all Canadians steps must be taken to eliminate extra-billing which she said would eventually "threaten accessibility and gradually erode our prepaid health care system".