

From this perspective, the Canadian government was especially gratified at the adoption by consensus at UNGA 40 of a resolution reaffirming resoundingly the importance of verification as an essential element of the arms control negotiating process. This confirms to us the high importance of effective verification in disarmament and arms control agreements — not as a partisan issue but as a matter on which there is international consensus. This consensus may be fragile, yet it is a foundation on which we can build. It is in this context that the Canadian delegation will shortly be making available to all delegations a comprehensive, cross-indexed compendium of verbatim statements on verification which have been made in this conference and its predecessors during the period 1962-1983. These records, the sheer size of which some of you may find intimidating, are in fact instructive in indicating the extent to which there is common ground on which we can expand. I trust that this compendium will prove to be a valuable tool for our collective work. . . may I conclude with the hope that 1986, the international year of peace, will prove to be a year of concrete achievement by this conference, a year which we will one day look back upon as a turning point in the history of arms control and disarmament.

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