

have specific landmarks against which to measure progress. This lesson is especially true for the United Nations and for its arms control activities.

This Special Session will help to keep alive the spirit of progress and achievement if it can identify and isolate those areas which command consensus and where we can agree we should concentrate our efforts. Canada has listened with interest and attention to the statements of the Special Session. We believe that a measure of agreement does exist on certain issues where Canada considers it would be worthwhile to concentrate our attention in the future.

First, deep and verifiable reductions in the arsenals of nuclear weapons must remain as the highest priority in international disarmament.

The achievements of a comprehensive test ban treaty remains a fundamental and enduring objective for Canada. The Special Session should recognize the successful efforts already made in Soviet/American negotiations in this area and endorse this full-scale, stage-by-stage negotiating procedure.

No measure demonstrates the commitment of a nation to nuclear disarmament more effectively than adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Beginning last week and throughout this Session, officials of the Canadian Government on my instructions, will be calling on the governments of all non-signatories of this Treaty strongly urging any nation that has not done so to accede to this essential arms control treaty. I hope that this Special Session will issue a similar call. It is no longer possible to argue, as some have, that the superpowers must first reduce their own nuclear arsenals. If that was a condition preordinate, it has been met.

The focus of attention on nuclear arms should not, however, be allowed to deflect attention from the need for progress in arms reduction in the field of conventional arms. This question must be addressed with no less urgency than that attached to nuclear questions. It is

in this area that regional approaches to arms control and disarmament may well provide the best returns.

The negotiation of a convention prohibiting chemical weapons and eliminating their stockpiles must be regarded as a matter of paramount importance. This Session should unequivocally condemn their use. While progress has been accomplished, greater efforts must be made to conclude an effectively verifiable comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.

Until such an agreement is reached, every step must be taken to prevent the transfer to other states of chemical weapons, and to follow the example of those countries which have moved to control the export of highly toxic chemicals and to institute a 'Warning List' procedure for others.

The prevention of an arms race in space remains a major goal of Canadian policy and a matter which concerns us all. Canada will continue to work to ensure that outer space is developed for peaceful purposes.

Verification is essential to the arms control and disarmament process. It has been a major preoccupation for Canada, and we are encouraged that so many speakers in this forum share that priority.

To help promote the cause of multilateralism in this field, we and the Netherlands have proposed that an in-depth study be undertaken by a United Nations Group of Experts. Such a report will advance international understanding of verification within the UN framework, and help develop an appropriate role for the organization in this field. I ask that members of the United Nations support this proposal."

Mr. President, in the last six years, we have shown that arms control and disarmament can work, and that it can be made part of the growing fabric of our international relations. Canada stands ready to work with member states in the pursuit of goals agreed by this Special Session. Let us continue to nourish further the cause of arms control and disarmament." ■

UNSSOD III Provides Consultative Group Focus

The Consultative Group on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs met April 14-16, 1988 in Ottawa to discuss the Third UN Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament (UNSSOD III).

Created in 1979 in response to a recommendation of the First United Nations Special Session on Disarmament (UNSSOD I) in 1978, the Consultative Group meets periodically with officials of the departments of External Affairs and National Defence to exchange views on matters of mutual interest relevant to Canada's policies on disarmament and arms control.

The meeting was highlighted by presentations by Ambassador Dave McDowell, the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations, and Mr. Fred Bild, Assistant Deputy Minister, Political and International Security Affairs, Department of External Affairs. Seventy individuals participated in a program which gave considerable emphasis to workshops.

The following executive summary of the meeting was prepared by the Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament as part of a contract with the Department of External Affairs. Copies of the full report are available by writing to the Editor.

The Third Special Session follows the highly successful UNSSOD I of 1978 and the stillborn UNSSOD II, held four years later. It comes at a time when there has been much progress in superpower bilateral arms control but few advances on the multilateral front, and thus can be viewed as a test of an opportunity to reinvigorate the multilateral disarmament process. This will not be an easy task. The Preparatory Commission for the Special Session has revealed sharp divisions both among and between West, East and the Neutral and Non-Aligned. While an epoch-making final document is not to be expected, the disarmament process and multilateralism will be