



Conference on Disarmament and Development Poses Challenge to Participants

At the request of the General Assembly, an International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development was held from August 24 to September 11, 1987, in New York. One hundred and fifty states including Canada participated in the conference. The USA did not attend.

Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark headed a strong Canadian delegation which included Members of Parliament, government officials and representatives of Canadian non-governmental organizations. Mr. Clark was honoured to deliver the opening speech of the conference, in which he stressed the importance of both disarmament and development as fundamental Canadian policy objectives. He set forth Canada's views on the relationship between the two processes and expectations for the conference.

At the outset, it became evident that the wide range of approaches to the subject posed a serious challenge to participants to resolve differences and work to achieve consensus. Some emphasized, as a priority focus of the conference, the need to augment de-

velopment assistance to Third World countries, including through the disarmament process. Others went so far as to make development efforts an express objective of further disarmament measures. Canada and many others took the position that disarmament and development are distinct and mutually supportive processes, related in that each contributes to security and benefits from enhanced security.

Despite some rocky moments, the conference succeeded in reaching agreement on a consensus final document and was widely heralded as a success. Having established a moderate approach in its opening statement, Canada played an active role throughout.

The conference established that disarmament and development form two distinct elements of a larger and very complex relationship. Although they are separate processes and should be pursued independently, regardless of the pace of progress in the other, each contributes to the benefits from security, which constitutes the essence of the relationship. Security was defined as including not only a military dimension,

“but also political, economic, social, humanitarian and human rights and ecological aspects.”

The conference also adopted an Action Programme based on the following three objectives:

- (a) “fostering an interrelated perspective on disarmament, development and security as constituting a triad of peace”;
- (b) “promoting multilateralism as providing the international framework for shaping the relationship between disarmament, development and security based on interdependence among nations and mutuality of interests”;
- (c) “strengthening the central role of the United Nations in the interrelated fields of disarmament and development.”

In Canada's view, among the major accomplishments of the conference was the achievement of broad recognition that genuine “security” includes much more than limited military calculations, and the pledge by all 150 participants to pursue both disarmament and development objectives and to adopt appropriate measures for that purpose.

SSEA Addresses Conference on Disarmament and Development

On August 24, 1987, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, addressed the International Conference on the Relationship Between Disarmament and Development in New York. Following are excerpts from his address.

“We are not discussing a theoretical problem. Ten days ago, I was briefly in Mozambique where I met, among others, Canadians involved in non-governmental organizations operating clinics and other projects in that country. They face every day the prospect that the projects on which they are working — development projects of the finest kind — will be bombed or attacked. They face the dilemma that projects launched to help

people in need in fact make those people targets of attack. I am not here arguing that arms create that conflict; but, certainly, when a clinic becomes a target, arms are the enemy of development.

Let me begin my remarks by noting, as Canada usually does, that the test of this conference will be what we do, not what we say. There is rhetoric enough on the evil of arms and the need for development. What we must seek to achieve here is practical cooperation, not mutual recrimination. The work of the preparatory meetings has been encouraging, but that atmosphere must continue if we are to protect the principle which Canada assumes all participants share — namely, that less

money must be spent on arms, and more money must be spent on development. The relevant question is how do we make progress, not whom do we blame.

Our purpose is to increase real security, for individual nations, and for the world. Progress towards development, and progress towards disarmament, can both contribute to that security, but their relationship is not simple. This conference can be most useful if it probes beneath the assumption that there can be an automatic transfer of funds from arms to development. We must understand why governments spend on arms — and understand also that there is simply no evidence —