

be undertaken when a clear requirement is identified and consent is properly provided by the parties to an arms control agreement.

The cost of any new United Nations agency must be of critical concern in this period of severe financial constraints on the United Nations. The costs for a verification organization, especially one covering a number of agreements, would be very high if the job is to be done thoroughly and properly, as it must be. It is also inappropriate during this time of constraint to further proliferate institutions within the United Nations.

These considerations lead Canada and the Netherlands to have clear reservations about proposals for the early establishment of any United Nations agency with broad operational responsibilities for verifying a number of arms control agreements. Under current international conditions, such a body does not seem to be a realistic possibility, and will not become so until the most important of these concerns have been addressed.

4. A Role for the United Nations in Verification

The general role of the United Nations in the arms control process is enunciated in the Final Document of the First Special Session (para. 114) which states:

"The United Nations, in accordance with the Charter, has a central role and primary responsibility in the sphere of disarmament. Accordingly, it should play a more active role in this field and, in order to discharge its functions effectively, the United Nations should facilitate and encourage all disarmament measures -- unilateral, bilateral, regional or multilateral -- and be kept duly informed through the General Assembly, or any other appropriate United Nations channel reaching all Members of the Organization, of all disarmament efforts outside its aegis without prejudice to the progress of negotiations."

One way that the United Nations can facilitate and encourage arms control agreements is in the field of verification.

The role of United Nations with respect to verification must be based on a considered appraisal of what is realistically feasible, both in terms of the prevailing political environment and the resources available to the United