

## NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

Canada is a country which deeply respects and values the NPT as an invaluable international treaty embodying the objectives of Canada's arms control, non-proliferation and peaceful-uses policies. These are:

- to encourage negotiations between the super powers leading to a cessation of the nuclear arms race, with the long-term goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control;
- to prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons;
- to promote and facilitate the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The NPT is the legal embodiment of a bargain made between the nuclear and non-nuclear states. The non-nuclear states agreed to forego the acquisition of nuclear weapons (i.e., horizontal proliferation)

in exchange for an undertaking by the nuclear states to halt the arms race in nuclear weapons (i.e., vertical proliferation).

## BILATERAL ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS

In addition to the multilateral arms control fora, there are also bilateral negotiations on nuclear arms reductions being conducted between the United States and the Soviet Union. In this regard, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, warmly welcomed the agreement announced by the United States and the Soviet Union on January 8, 1985 to engage in bilateral negotiations on nuclear arms - of both strategic and intermediate range - and space weapons. He said that this represents an important step in relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. The negotiating process will have far-reaching and positive implications for East-West relations in general and for negotiations in multilateral arms control fora in which Canada is

a direct participant.

Canada is particularly encouraged by the agreed objectives for the USA-USSR negotiations: the prevention of an arms race in space and its termination on earth; the limitation and reduction of nuclear arms; and the strengthening of strategic stability, leading ultimately to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. These themes have long been central elements of Canadian foreign policy. Canada welcomes the opportunity to consult further with the USA, both bilaterally and in NATO, as these negotiations unfold.

\*This briefing paper is adapted from a speech given by Douglas Roche, Ambassador for Disarmament, to the International Institute for Peace Education, in Edmonton July 8, 1985.