



Arms control and disarmament

During the past year Canada continued to pursue multi-faceted efforts in the field of arms control and disarmament. It frequently made its views known to the superpowers on a wide range of issues and was keenly interested in strategic nuclear arms reductions (START) and space-defence issues. A START agreement would contribute significantly to Canadian security, in view of the country's geographic position between the United States and the Soviet Union. Until satisfactory alternative agreements are concluded, Canada will continue to call for the maintenance of the existing arms control regime, including the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. On a bilateral level, Canada conducted consultations with Japan, U.S.S.R., U.K., the Federal Republic of Germany, China, Spain, Portugal, New Zealand, the United States and Czechoslovakia.

Recent Canadian diplomatic efforts have involved participation in various multilateral disarmament forums, including the UN General Assembly First Committee, where Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament, Douglas Roche, was chairman. A very positive atmosphere prevailed in the First Committee, facilitating an unusually productive session. Of 67 arms control and disarmament resolutions adopted, a record 27 were by consensus. In preparation for assuming the chairmanship, Mr. Roche visited a number of capitals on five continents.

One of the highlights of 1988 was the Third Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (UNSSOD III) held from May 31 to June 25 in New York. Although participating states were unable to reach agreement on a concluding document, it was clear that a much more positive atmosphere prevailed than at UNSSOD II; there was an increasing recognition among the non-aligned states of their responsibility in the arms control and disarmament process, particularly in relation to conventional arms, and there was a general avoidance of unhelpful ideological rhetoric. Canada was also active at the UN Disarmament Commission, the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva (where continuing progress on a chemical weapons ban was made), as well as the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction Talks, and the talks on a mandate for new conventional arms negotiations, both of which were held in Vienna.

A major event during the year relevant to defence, arms control and security policy was the agreement to the Concluding Document at the Vienna CSCE Conference on January 17. From this conference have emerged two new separate negotiations; the "Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe" and the "Negotiation on Confi-

dence- and Security-Building Measures" both began on March 9. The former involves 23 NATO and Warsaw Pact member states and is aimed at establishing enhanced stability between the conventional forces of the two sides, at lower levels. The latter negotiation includes all 35 CSCE participating states and seeks to build upon the achievements of the Stockholm Agreement, further enhancing transparency in military matters in Europe. In preparation for these negotiations NATO conducted a major study of the conventional forces in both alliances and published the results in November. The document, entitled *Conventional Forces in Europe: The Facts*, highlights the asymmetries existing in Europe which NATO aims to eliminate through negotiation with the Warsaw Pact.

The year under review was the second year of implementation of the Stockholm Agreement on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBM) in Europe. Signed in 1986, the Stockholm document required all 35 member states of the CSCE (Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe) to notify one another about significant military activities and exercises planned and, when appropriate, to invite foreign observers. In addition, any state may conduct a challenge on-site inspection when it is uncertain of the purpose of military activity. During the first two years of operation, some 35 military exercises took place at which observers were present and 18 challenge inspections (9 in Eastern Europe and 9 in Western Europe) were conducted. Canada sent observers to all relevant military exercises; Canadian forces in Europe were among those inspected and observed. Canada was also active in the CSCE negotiations in Vienna to secure the mandate for a second conference on CSBMs and a new mandate for conventional arms reductions in Europe.

Verification

Canada's emphasis on verification was continued at a variety of levels, including the UN General Assembly's First Committee, where Canada co-sponsored a related resolution calling for an expert study on the role of the UN in verification, and at the UN Disarmament Commission where, for the second year, Canada chaired a working group on the subject, which reached consensus on a set of 16 verification principles. Canada also sent two representatives to a UN meeting of verification experts in Dagomys, U.S.S.R. The Department's Verification Research Unit continued its work on various aspects of the question, and in its publication program. An industry roundtable was convened in Toronto in February to discuss the issue, and the Department collaborated with the strategic studies program of the University of Calgary to convene a conference