

PREFACE

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 45/65 of 4 December 1990 adopted by consensus the Report of the Group of Qualified Governmental Experts on the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Verification. This resolution, inter alia, called upon member states to assist the Secretary General in implementing the recommendations contained in the Report of the Group of Experts. Among these recommendations was the development of a "consolidated data bank of published materials and data provided on a voluntary basis by member states on all aspects of verification and compliance".¹

A follow-on Group of Experts on "Verification in All Its Aspects, Including the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Verification"² was established pursuant to Resolution 48/68 of 16 December 1993 and completed its work in July 1995. Among several recommendations of that Group relating to verification databases was one that "the United Nations continue its work to develop a database of bibliographic references relating to literature on verification for public, research and training purposes, drawing on contributions from Member States".³

Canada has played a particularly active role in the United Nations' consideration of the issue of "verification in all its aspects", including the studies conducted by both the 1990 and 1995 Groups of Experts. At the Forty-Fifth Session of the General Assembly, Canada's then Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark confirmed Canada's intention to support the United Nations in establishing a consolidated data bank through voluntary contributions of Canadian compilations and indexes of verification material. This undertaking follows from an on-going policy commitment by Canada to share with others, through the United Nations, the results of its verification research.

During the Forty-Sixth Session of the General Assembly, Canada contributed to the United Nations database a detailed Bibliography on Arms Control Verification: 1962-1991. That Bibliography covered more than 1500 entries during those years. Included were English language publications and submissions by governments and international organizations as well as the academic research community's literature on the subject. The following year, during the Forty-Seventh Session of the General Assembly, Canada contributed a second report entitled

¹ UN Document, A/45/372, 28 August 1990, para. 263.

² UN Document, A/50/377, September 1995.

³ Ibid., Chapter VI.