

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

BASIC FACTS

- THERE ARE NOW FIVE NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES; ONE ADDITIONAL STATE - INDIA - HAS DETONATED A NUCLEAR DEVICE; A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF STATES ARE SUSPECTED OF HAVING OR OF DEVELOPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS.
- THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME IS BUILT AROUND THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT), RATIFIED BY CANADA IN 1970. THE NPT SEEKS TO PREVENT THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES, WHILE FACILITATING ACCESS TO NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, AND COMMITS PARTIES TO PURSUE NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD ENDING THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE AND ACHIEVING NUCLEAR AND GENERAL DISARMAMENT.

CURRENT CONCERNS

- DESPITE PROGRESS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS ISSUES (IMPLEMENTATION OF INF; START; PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON SHORT-RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES) SOME PARTIES TO THE NPT ARGUE THAT THERE HAS BEEN INSUFFICIENT PROGRESS BY THE NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES RELATING TO NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT.
- AT THE 1995 NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE, A DECISION MUST BE TAKEN CONCERNING THE EXTENSION OF THE TREATY. THERE IS A RISK THAT SOME PARTIES MIGHT LINK THE EXTENSION OF THIS IMPORTANT MULTILATERAL ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OTHER SPECIFIC ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT OBJECTIVES, WHICH COULD UNDERMINE THE FUTURE VIABILITY OF THE TREATY.
- EVEN WITH THE NPT IN EXISTENCE, THERE REMAINS A DANGER THAT NON-PARTIES, OR EVEN SOME SIGNATORIES, MIGHT SEEK TO OBTAIN THE TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO CONSTRUCT NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ALTHOUGH THE NPT HAS OVER 140 ADHERENTS, TWO NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES AND SEVERAL NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES WITH IMPORTANT NUCLEAR PROGRAMS HAVE NOT YET ACCEDED.

PROGRAMME OF ACTION

- WE WILL STRONGLY ADVOCATE AN EARLY COMMITMENT BY SIGNATORIES TO THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. TO ITS INDEFINITE EXTENSION IN 1995 AND ENCOURAGE ADHERENCE TO THE TREATY BY ALL NON-PARTIES.
- WE WILL ADVOCATE A FORMAL RE-AFFIRMATION, BY NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES, OF THEIR COMMITMENT TO PURSUE FURTHER NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT MEASURES (START/NUCLEAR TEST BAN) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE VI OF THE NPT.
- WE WILL SUPPORT THE STRENGTHENING OF EFFECTIVE MULTILATERAL CONTROLS ON DUAL-USE NUCLEAR GOODS.