

national intelligence-gathering agency, with a common satellite launch facility, was proposed as a solution. The absence of a "trigger list" was cited as a problem with the MTCR. Canada was encouraged to explore and identify items that might fall within this category (e.g., gyroscopes) and develop controls for them. It was noted that dual-use equipment could pose a problem for the

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### ***Canada encouraged to develop an MTCR "trigger list."***

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MTCR and other supplier regimes in the future and that, to circumvent controls, countries may try to bring military specifications into line with civilian requirements.

There was general agreement that an effective, global chemical weapons convention will be difficult to arrive at. While one participant criticized the Department of National Defence's Defence Research Establishment Suffield (DRES) for its research into protective measures against the effects of chemical weapons, another noted that DRES has taken many positive steps to respond to public concerns about its activities.

Although there was some sentiment that the general problem of horizontal proliferation is best dealt with on a

regional basis by addressing regional security problems, other participants were of the opinion that the problem could better be solved by the West (or North) making greater efforts to reduce its own arsenals, particularly its nuclear arsenals.

Participants spent some time discussing Canada's approach to events in the Persian Gulf. While several were pleased at the coordinated UN response, they also expressed extreme reservations about the military situation in the Gulf, in particular about the danger of use of chemical or nuclear weapons. Many argued strongly that there should be efforts to move towards a diplomatic solution, and encouraged Canada and its allies to think of a "face-saving" way for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. One participant urged Canada to promote the development of UN mechanisms to deal with potential crises before the fact and cited, as examples, Palme Commission proposals for a joint military council, Secretary-General fact-finding missions, and UN intelligence-gathering.

On other topics, the government was encouraged to promote arms transfer transparency and control; to consider the possibility of using aircraft under multinational control for Open Skies

overflights; to pursue the idea of an Arctic Zone of Peace; to establish a UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in this country, which could also serve as headquarters for a Conference on Arctic Security and Cooperation; to insist on a mandate for the CD to negotiate a comprehensive test ban treaty; and to redirect resources from military purposes towards alleviation of poverty and protection of the environment.

Some participants argued that anticipated reductions as a result of START or CFE agreements, although welcome, would be of negligible value given the overall number of weapons in the world. The concern was also expressed that qualitative improvements in weaponry would negate the benefits of any reductions. Several participants called on Canada to inject a sense of urgency into its security policy and to demonstrate greater "vision" in its approach to security questions.

Consultative Group meetings provide occasion for informed debate among people who approach current arms control and disarmament questions from very different perspectives. They also offer government representatives a chance to hear the most persuasive arguments in favour of and against various policy alternatives. Both governmental and non-governmental participants were pleased that the Saskatoon meeting continued this valuable tradition. ■

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## ***Curbing Proliferation: What Canada is Doing***

Recent events in the Persian Gulf have again forcefully drawn the world's attention to the danger that an increasing number of countries may be acquiring weapons of mass destruction, such as chemical, biological or nuclear weapons, as well as vast quantities of conventional arms. The following provides a brief summary of Canadian efforts to discourage the proliferation of various types of weapons.

### ***Chemical Weapons***

Canada has placed a number of chemicals under export controls because of the items' potential use in the production of chemical weapons. In

1985, Canada joined with other Western countries that had taken similar action in the "Australia Group," which now consists of 20 countries. The Australia Group has since expanded its area of concern to the general problem of chemical and biological weapons proliferation. It meets every six months to address this problem and to review the effectiveness of measures taken. Canada has a total of 14 chemicals under export controls and is making a significant contribution to Australia Group activities.

In addition, at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Canada has as-

sumed a lead role in the negotiation of a multilateral chemical weapons convention that would ban the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons on a global basis. Such a convention provides the only effective means of dealing with the threat posed by chemical weapons proliferation.

### ***Biological Weapons***

Canada is a party to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention of 1972, which bans the development, production, stockpiling and acquisition of biological and toxin weapons. Canada is one of the few parties to comply