

CANADA'S AGENDA FOR UNSSOD II

UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim asked member-states to give him their views on the agenda for UNSSOD II. The Canadian reply, dated 8 April 1981, included the following:

"Canada considers that the discussions in preparation for and at UNSSOD II should be as concrete and practical as possible and should respect certain principles and themes. Some of these should be the following:

a) Arms limitation and disarmament cannot be divorced from the wider political context; prescriptions which ignore the international situation are not useful;

b) arms limitation and security are inseparable; discussions which ignore states' security interests are also not useful;

c) the only secure route to progress in arms limitation is through specific and verifiable agreements which include those states at risk of military confrontation. Agreements which are merely declaratory in nature do not provide the assurance of real disarmament;

d) greater openness is necessary to make possible adequate verification of agreements. In the absence of agreements, greater openness is essential to build confidence among those attempting to negotiate agreements;

e) nuclear weapon states bear a special responsibility to negotiate both quantitative and qualitative limits on these weapons. In this regard, reference should be made to the measures envisaged in paragraph 50 of the Final Document;

f) notwithstanding this special responsibility, efforts should be increased to reduce levels of conventional armaments, using the regional approach as the one most likely to produce results.

"Canada hopes that UNSSOD II will give highest priority