



prevent the resort to force and to create the positive political atmosphere which is needed for negotiations on arms control and disarmament.

(e) We would also like to see the Secretary-General's good offices role developed further as a contribution to 'preventive diplomacy'.

(f) We believe greater attention needs to be paid to dealing with the tensions and sensitivities in a regional context, such as to reduce the pressure for armaments."

While focusing on improvement of the United Nations machinery for dealing with disarmament, the Canadian delegation emphasized the importance of improving the political dialogue among member states and groupings.

In another intervention concerning the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, Ambassador Roche noted that the various objectives, goals and

priorities set out in the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade had yet to be realized.

He hoped that the spirit of cooperation which the USA and the USSR seemed to be seeking at the UNDC would be reflected in the bilateral negotiations in Geneva and that it would lead to significant and verifiable arms reduction agreements.

In outlining Canada's efforts, Ambassador Roche pointed out that:

"— Essentially, our objective is the prevention of all war in the nuclear age, not only nuclear war but conventional war.

— The task of preventing war requires all states to do their utmost to ensure that force is no longer viewed as an appropriate instrument for settling international disputes and that both its use and the threat of its use are eliminated from international relations as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations.

— It is our intention to contribute first and foremost, to the extent that we can, to improving the political atmosphere, particularly between East and West, in an effort to encourage the creation of trust and the political will that are essential for progress on these issues.

— It is also our intention to work towards practical proposals and to develop technical back-up for negotiations.

— There is a need for an improved climate of confidence, for concrete disarmament commitments and for respect for them.

— Effective disarmament commitments will be achieved only through negotiations that ensure international stability and security at the lowest level of arms.

— Disarmament agreements, to be accepted, will, in our view, require effective verification systems that will provide the necessary confidence and trust.

— We regard verification as a means for facilitating the conclusion of agreements on disarmament, not for dragging them out or preventing them."

The importance of establishing effective verification systems was underlined by the Canadian Government's allocation of \$1 million annually to a Verification Research Programme to provide back-up technical support to Canada's disarmament negotiations.

At the concluding plenary session on May 30, Ambassador Roche said that the UNDC session had not been devoid of some value. Among other things, it did reveal the direction of the international community's thinking on disarmament issues. Nevertheless, "any concerned observer would be forced to conclude that the UNDC had been sleepwalking through one of the most important moments in history". Canada hoped that the UNDC would begin to play a more worthwhile role.

If it were to do so, however, there had to be political will: "in the end, we come back, as we always do, to the question of political will... The words are so easily spoken, so difficult to generate. Yet we can never give up. Future generations depend on us".



Opening Session of the 1985 Disarmament Commission on May 6. Chairman Mansur Ahmad (Pakistan) (left) addressing the opening meeting. Next to him are Fehmi Alem, Secretary, and Don Arturo Laclaustra (Spain), Rapporteur.

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