



Arms control and disarmament

Canada continued to pursue multifaceted efforts to promote progress in the field of arms control and disarmament. Clearly, the highlight of 1987 was the signing of an agreement by President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev to eliminate intermediate-range (INF) nuclear missiles. The INF agreement is an historical landmark. For the first time, the superpowers have agreed to reduce, rather than to limit, their respective nuclear arsenals. Canada played a prominent part in Alliance consultations, which resulted in the conclusion of the INF agreement. Other significant events during the year included superpower discussions on strategic arms reductions, and the International Conference on the Relationship Between Disarmament and Development.

Canada has been keenly interested in strategic nuclear arms reductions (START) and space-defence issues. A START agreement would have a considerable impact on Canada, in view of the country's geographic position between the United States and the Soviet Union. Until appropriate alternative agreements are concluded, Canada will continue to call for the maintenance of the existing arms control regime, including the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

Recent Canadian diplomatic efforts have involved participation in multilateral disarmament forums, including the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, which deals with international security matters, the United Nations Disarmament Commission, the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, as well as the Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions Talks (MBFR) and the talks on a mandate for new conventional arms negotiations, which are both held in Vienna. Canada also was active in the Conference on Disarmament and Development, and in the meetings of the preparatory committee for the Third Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament.

The year under review was also notable as the first year of implementation of the Stockholm Agreement on Confidence and Security-building Measures (CSBMs) in Europe. Signed in 1986, the Stockholm document requires all 35 member states of the CSCE (Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe) to notify one another about significant military activities and exercises planned and, where appropriate, to invite foreign observers. In addition, any state may conduct a challenge on-site inspection where it is uncertain of the purpose of military activity. During the first year of operation, 17 military exercises took place at which observers were present, and 5 challenge inspections (2 in Eastern Europe and 3 in Western Europe) were conducted. Canada sent observers to all relevant military exercises, although Canadian forces in Europe were themselves neither involved

in notifiable exercises nor inspected during the period. Canada was also active in the CSCE negotiations in Vienna to secure a mandate for a second conference on CSBMs.

Canada pursued bilateral consultations on arms control and disarmament with countries active in this field, including China, Japan, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union, Australia, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, the United Kingdom, the United States and New Zealand. The Secretary of State for External Affairs participated in the Norway-Canada Conference on Circumpolar Issues in December 1987. Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament, Douglas Roche, held consultations with India and Pakistan and attended a World Disarmament Campaign Conference in China.

Verification, chemical weapons and outer space

For the third successive year, a Canadian-sponsored resolution on the role of verification of compliance with arms control agreements was adopted by consensus at the UN General Assembly. This increased the international recognition given to the role of verification in arms control and disarmament. Canada's emphasis on verification was also pursued at the practical level by the Department's Verification Research Unit, which continued work on specific aspects of the question. An example was the "Symposium on Space Surveillance for Arms Control and Verification: Options," held under the auspices of the McGill University Centre for Research in Air and Space Law. The Symposium brought together ambassadors to the Conference on Disarmament and government and academic experts, who discussed the legal aspects of verification and "Paxsat," the Canadian space-based verification concept. A Canadian, Dr. Peter Basham, was selected international co-ordinator of the 1990 International Seismic Exchange of Level II Data.

Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament chaired the Verification Working Group at the UN Disarmament Commission. The Department promoted the Paxsat project in international arms control forums. It has also been studying models of international authorities that would facilitate monitoring of arms control compliance. Support was provided to the Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament to help it organize the international conference "Implementing a Global Chemical Weapons Convention," which was held in Ottawa in October 1987.

Domestic activities

The continuing dialogue with the public on arms control and disarmament issues was pursued with vigour during the year under review. The Consultative Group on Disarma-