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It is a basic premise of the treaty that, if the further spread of nuclear weapons is to be halted, there should also be a halt to -- and, indeed, a reversal of -- the momentum of the nuclear-arms race. Following the conclusion of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Soviet Union and the United States began their strategic-arms limitation talks. These have been of major importance in promoting a climate of strategic stability and of political *détente* between the super-powers. But that is not enough. The talks have not halted the momentum of the nuclear-arms race or achieved steps of actual nuclear disarmament. The Canadian Government is conscious of the complexity and difficulty in achieving even gradual measures of nuclear disarmament. It is essential, however, that the super-powers make a more determined effort to achieve this objective at an early date. It is our hope that the final document of this conference will contain a firm recommitment to the objective of nuclear disarmament by the nuclear-weapon powers party to the treaty.

Perhaps the achievement of no other measure would so help to support the non-proliferation objective as the conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban. Canada will welcome any interim steps to facilitate the achievement of a comprehensive test-ban, but we strongly believe that, to meet the objective of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, a comprehensive ban must be achieved at the earliest possible date.

A second premise of the treaty is that it should encourage international co-operation in the exchange of nuclear technology and materials for peaceful uses, especially between advanced and developing countries. It is important that ways of fulfilling this objective be considered at this conference.

Canada will continue to play its full part in contributing to the International Atomic Energy Agency's General Fund for Technical Assistance and to the United Nations Development Program, which also finances projects implemented by the Agency. But it is Canada's intention to provide, within its overall aid criteria and priorities, increased amounts of technical assistance in the nuclear area, bilaterally or through appropriate multilateral channels such as the IAEA, to developing countries party to the NPT. Moreover, future Canadian bilateral official development-assistance commitments for the financing of nuclear projects will be undertaken solely to NPT party states. Furthermore, a country's adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty will be an important factor in reaching decisions on the provision of Canadian Government export financing in the nuclear field.

Let me add here that, whether or not Canada extends financial assistance in the nuclear field, it will provide nuclear material, equip-

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