

nuclear weapons in the area. Other areas have also been proposed as nuclear weapon-free zones. These include: the Nordic states, the Balkan states, Africa, the Middle East, and Southern Asia.

In the UN General Assembly Canada has supported resolutions calling for the creation of nuclear weapon-free zones in the Middle East, Latin America, Africa and Southern Asia; but it has always been opposed to the establishment of such zones in Central or Northern Europe or the Balkans, saying that zones in those areas would cast doubts on the effectiveness of the NATO deterrent and expose certain areas to the risk of Soviet attack, without making a genuine contribution to nuclear disarmament.

Current Canadian Position

Canada supports the principle of nuclear weapon-free zones whenever this is feasible and likely to promote stability in the area. Although the creation of such a zone is not a satisfactory alternative to having the countries of the area ratify the Non-Proliferation Treaty it can make a significant contribution to preventing the spread of nuclear arms.

The Canadian Government is prepared to study such proposals on a case-by-case basis but it believes that to be effective any proposals must meet certain requirements: the zone must apply to a defined geographical area; it must be based on proposals which emanate from and are agreed to by most countries in the area concerned, including the principal military powers; it must not give advantage to any state or group of states; it must contain adequate treaty assurances and means to verify that countries abide by their commitments, and it must not permit the development of an independent nuclear explosive capability in the area.¹

¹ DEA, Arms Control and Disarmament Division, "Canada Position on Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones", Disarmament Bulletin, Summer-Fall 1986, p. 12.