

not conducive to progress in the various negotiating forums. The new US Administration undertook a major review of security policy, including arms control and disarmament. As a result, possible forward movement was postponed until late 1981 and beyond.

The Canadian government began preparations for the second United Nations Special Session devoted to Disarmament (UNSSOD II), to take place from June 7 to July 9, 1982. Canada outlined its views on UNSSOD II to the UN Secretary-General in April and participated in two sessions of the UNSSOD II Preparatory Committee.

The Ambassador for Disarmament participated in numerous bilateral and multilateral consultations to ensure the best possible outcome to UNSSOD II. A major foreign policy debate took place in the House of Commons in June and substantial portions of the speeches of the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs dealt with the importance of arms control and disarmament. The strategy of suffocation, enunciated by the Prime Minister at UNSSOD I in 1978, was reaffirmed at the time. The Department of External Affairs channelled financial contributions from its Disarmament Fund toward UNSSOD II related activities and financed the preparation and production of 15,000 copies of the booklet UNSSOD II and Canada: A Canadian Perspective for distribution to groups and individuals wishing to study the issues likely to arise at the second Special Session. The Department's consultative group on disarmament and arms control affairs met twice, focusing its discussion on UNSSOD II subjects. The Disarmament Bulletin, the semi-annual review of national and international disarmament and arms control activities, was mailed to an expanding readership of some 2,000. In December, the House of Commons empowered its Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence to examine security and disarmament issues, with specific attention to Canada's participation at UNSSOD II.

The 1981 session of the Committee on Disarmament (CD), the multi-lateral negotiating body in Geneva, made no significant progress on the issues on its agenda. However, some useful work was accomplished in specific areas, particularly chemical weapons. As was the case in 1980, four working groups were established, dealing with chemical weapons, negative security assurances, radiological weapons and a comprehensive program of disarmament. The ad hoc group of seismic experts continued to do useful work in connection with the verification of a future comprehensive test ban treaty. In addition, Canada tabled a Conceptual Working Paper on Arms Control Verification, the third and final paper of a series dealing with the important question of the verification of arms control and disarmament agreements.

The UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) met for three weeks in the late spring of 1981, but managed agreement on only one of the four items on its agenda -- nuclear disarmament, reductions in military budgets, a study on conventional weapons and South African nuclear capability. Consensus was achieved only on the final report of the discussion on nuclear disarmament. The remaining three items were merely noted in the UNDC report to the