

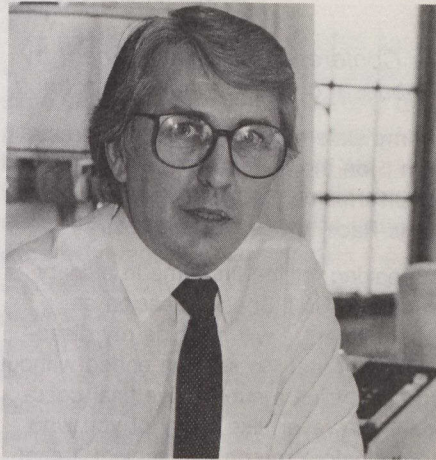
## International Meeting of Physicians in Montreal

During the recent 8th Annual Congress of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) in Montreal, Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, welcomed Congress delegates on behalf of the Canadian Government. Excerpts of his address follow:

"I am honoured to be present here this morning among such a distinguished gathering of individuals from many countries, and it is with pleasure that I welcome you to Montreal on behalf of the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada. I also wish to take this opportunity to commend the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and the Canadian organizers in particular for their enormous effort and dedication in staging this 8th Annual World Congress — 'Healing our Planet: A Global Prescription.'

Since your last meeting in Moscow, in May 1987, there have been significant developments in the arms control and disarmament field. Clearly, the most important of these has been the Soviet-American Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear missiles. In addition, we have seen substantial progress at the Conference on Disarmament in the negotiations for a Chemical Weapons Treaty. Preparations have also begun in Vienna to create a new forum to negotiate conventional force reductions in Europe. The Stockholm confidence-building agreement has enabled NATO and Warsaw Pact countries to conduct 16 unprecedented on-site inspections of each other's military exercises. There has also been an improvement in the risk reduction operation of the USA and the Soviet Union, which aims at reducing the possibility of accidental nuclear war. And there is also a strong likelihood of a strategic arms agreement in the next year.

Canada believes that in order to usefully contribute to arms control discussions, we need an active and well-informed public, and we have taken a variety of steps to achieve these ends. The Government's participation in this forum, through our Permanent Representative to the United Nations, our



*The Honourable Jean-Guy Hudon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.*

Ambassador for Disarmament, and other officials of the Department of External Affairs and members of the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security as well as our financial contributions is evidence of both our commitment and our appreciation for the work of the IPPNW, and especially its Canadian branch, in pursuit of this goal....

Canada is committed to playing an active role in the arms control and disarmament process. Firstly, recognizing and respecting the bilateral nature of some of the key negotiations, Canada regularly communicates its views and support to both the USSR and the USA. It is, however, Canada's view that we are entering a period in which multilateral arms control agreements will be increasingly significant and necessary. Canada is an active member of all the significant multilateral arms control and disarmament bodies, including the Conference on Disarmament, the Mutual Balanced Force Reduction talks, and the new mandate negotiations on conventional stability in Europe and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). Canada is especially committed to the role of the UN in international peace and security. We are the fourth largest contributor to that organization and are actively involved in seeking to strengthen its role, including the contribution it can make in the arms control and security process....

Canada has stated six main principles in arms control and disarmament:

- i) radical reductions in nuclear arms;
- ii) the realization of a negotiated and verifiable comprehensive test ban treaty, which would halt all nuclear testing by all countries in all environments for all time;
- iii) the maintenance and strengthening of the non-proliferation treaty, which is critical to stopping the spread of nuclear weapons to more countries and to ensuring the safe transfer of technology and materials for the development of nuclear power systems;
- iv) the negotiation of a chemical weapons ban;
- v) the prevention of an arms build-up in outer space and,
- vi) increased confidence-building measures, agreements that promote better communications between nations and improve the East-West negotiating atmosphere.

In its pursuit of arms control, Canada has made a unique contribution in the field of verification, which is the process of ensuring that an arms control agreement is not being violated. In 1983, we launched a verification research program which concentrates among other things on techniques for seismic monitoring, monitoring chemical weapons use, and studying the feasibility of space-based satellite sensing. It should be noted, however, that even the most stringent verification *régime* cannot unequivocally ensure that signatories to an agreement are complying with the letter and spirit of the accord. Successful arms control requires a demonstrated commitment by governments to honour such agreements, if the atmosphere of confidence necessary for further arms control is to be achieved. Thus, we make a special point of encouraging full compliance with existing treaties.

Events of the last year have brought us progress and increased hope. Canada continues to believe that arms control is essential to the search for a more peaceful and secure world. We are confident that with the participation of citizens and groups like the IPPNW we will succeed in building this more secure and peaceful world." □