

buildup and reduce the danger of destruction. This determination -- as the Rt. Hon. Joe Clark expressed it to the United Nations on September 25th -- "will be a constant, consistent, dominant priority of Canadian foreign policy."

Let us examine how Canada pressed that determination in disarmament work at the U.N. this fall.

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First, it should be recalled that, in his speech to the General Assembly, the Secretary of State for External Affairs put Canadian international security policy squarely within the U.N. context:

"Our government is committed strongly to the United Nations ... a dynamic United Nations system is essential for countries like Canada - and equally for the superpowers. Precisely because more communities are looking inward more often, we must strengthen global institutions which bring us together."

"Bring us together": this phrase is key. In U.N. parlance, it is known as consensus-building. With consensus, the United Nations is a powerful force for peace, and with consensus, the United Nations has achieved many victories. Indeed, it was a "historic consensus" achieved at the First Special Session on Disarmament in 1978 that brought forward the 129 paragraph Final Document which set out a comprehensive program for disarmament. Without consensus, the voice of the international community is blurred and