

The outcome of the resolution-making process was a success. Negotiations in which Canada played a leading role produced a resolution around which virtual consensus was achieved that expressed the desire of the international community for talks to begin in the CD. Much more will need to be done before actual negotiations take place, but the adoption of this resolution is a clear step forward. The bilateral talks between the USA and USSR, which are complementary to those taking place in the CD, will also have to be taken into consideration.

(2) *Comprehensive test ban*: The achievement of a nuclear test ban treaty has also been a Canadian priority. There are many pitfalls, some technical, others political. On the technical level, the actual monitoring of a test ban to ensure compliance remains a problem still not completely resolved; on the political level, negotiations between the UK, USA and USSR were broken off after the invasion of Afghanistan in late 1979 and have not yet resumed.

Canada believes, however, that a comprehensive test ban is a concrete, realistic — and realizable — measure which would constitute a major step in curbing the arms race. We believe, furthermore, that the way to achieve it is through realistic, step-by-step practical measures in the CD, such as in the area of verification, that would bring closer the day when a test ban could be implemented. Canadian strategy in this area is to concentrate on the UN process.

With Canada as co-sponsor, a resolution was developed that would permit the Conference on Disarmament to resume immediately its substantive work on a test ban. After complex negotiations, this resolution was also passed by a large majority; this will ensure that work will continue in Geneva towards the negotiation of a test ban treaty.

(3) *Chemical weapons*: One of the few, substantive resolutions before the United Nations that unites all countries, East and West, North and South, relates to chemical weapons. Canadians have experienced firsthand the use of chemical weapons, and the memory is indelible. The Iran-Iraq war serves as a grim reminder that these weapons are still with us.

Negotiations in Geneva continue to grapple with the problem of ensuring that any ban on chemical weapons will stick; the full weight and encouragement of the international community for the negotiations would contribute to success. In 1983, under Canadian chairmanship, the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Chemical Weapons of the Committee on Disarmament (now the Conference on Disarmament) produced, for the first time, a consensus document which contained major elements required for a comprehensive treaty and clearly outlined those areas in which there was agreement or disagreement. Canada, as one of the 40 members of the Conference on Disarmament, continues to participate actively in the negotiations in Geneva and also supports the efforts of the UN General Assembly and the Secretary-General to ensure that the existing 1925 Geneva Protocol is not being contravened.

At this past session of the First Committee, Canada and Poland shared the challenge of constructing a UN resolution that would give unified voice to this encouragement; again our collaboration proved successful, and the unanimous support of the United Nations for these negotiations was confirmed.

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