

To threaten to bring down the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime in the quest for an amendment which, however well-intentioned, in reality gives no promise of producing a global, comprehensive and verifiable test ban is, quite simply, irresponsible.²

In the lead-up to the Amendment Conference, this continued to be the Canadian position. In his speech to the 45th United Nations General Assembly on 26 September 1990, Secretary of State Clark commented on the linkage to the NPT in the following terms:

...we have been deeply disturbed by a tendency among some others to adopt positions which can only act to undermine the vital consensus which underlies the existing treaties on non-proliferation and nuclear testing... the pursuit of other objectives should not be allowed to threaten those existing agreements which have become so vital...it is Canada's firm view that both the Non-Proliferation Treaty and a comprehensive test ban treaty are too important for international peace and security to be held hostage one to the other.³

Once the convening of the Conference was determined, however, Canadian policy focussed on the prospect that the meeting might offer a constructive opportunity for an exchange of views on the problems involved in a CTB. Speaking to the organizational meeting of the Amendment Conference in June 1990, Disarmament Ambassador Peggy Mason commented:

Canada believes that the Amendment Conference has the potential to build on common ground among parties and provide a fresh impetus to work toward the CTB goal, particularly at the Conference on Disarmament.⁴

In accordance with this view, Canada submitted a working paper to the Amendment Conference on verification requirements. The limited duration of the Conference, however, and the failure to establish working committees, prevented any comprehensive discussion of verification issues.

While offering only limited support to the proponents of the Amendment Conference, Canadian statements both before and at the Amendment Conference appeared to signal impatience with the slow pace of the negotiations on the ratification of the threshold treaties. At the 1990 United Nations General Assembly, Canada again co-sponsored (with Australia and New Zealand) a resolution

²Department of External Affairs. *Disarmament Bulletin*, Spring-Summer 1989: 30.

³Department of External Affairs. "Statement by the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs to the Forty-Fifth Session of the United Nations General Assembly," *Statement*, 90/55, 26 September 1990: 6.

⁴Ambassador Peggy Mason, Head of the Canadian Delegation. *Statement*, 4 June 1990.