

-- The Stockholm Conference began its second year with East and West still far apart in their approach to Confidence-Building Measures.

-- At the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction talks (MBFR) in Vienna which resumed in January, East and West are still unable to resolve troop data questions after more than eleven years of negotiations.

Progress towards a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty has been traditionally associated with compliance on Article VI. For Canada, the achievement of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty remains a fundamental and abiding Canadian objective. We believe that a CTB is a concrete, realistic measure which would constitute a major step in curbing the development of new and more sophisticated nuclear weapons. It is regarded as an extremely important step towards halting both the vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons. As the U.N. Secretary-General stated earlier this year, "It is of direct importance to the future of humanity to end all nuclear explosions. No other means would be as effective in limiting the further development of nuclear weapons."

The world community is now asking why it has been necessary for the nuclear weapon states to have conducted a total of 1,522 nuclear explosions between 1945 and 1984. The question intensifies as one recognizes that 53 nuclear explosions were carried out in 1984. How does continued