

Suspension of Nuclear Tests

With regard to the suspension of nuclear tests, the eight non-aligned members of the ENDC introduced a draft resolution, similar to one passed during the previous session but also expressing increasing concern that nuclear tests were continuing in the atmosphere and underground. The draft resolution urged all states which had not already done so to adhere without further delay to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water; called on all nuclear-weapon states to suspend nuclear-weapon tests in all environments; expressed the hope that states would contribute to an effective international exchange of seismic data; and requested the ENDC to consider a treaty banning nuclear-weapon tests as a matter of urgency and report to the twenty-third General Assembly. In the debate, the Eastern European states advocated a comprehensive ban based on national means of verification. The Canadian position was presented by General Burns, the Canadian representative on the ENDC, who pointed out that some day improved seismic detection might obviate the need for on-site inspections but that at present such inspections remained necessary. The draft was adopted as Resolution 2343 in plenary by a vote of 103 (Canada) in favour to one (Albania) opposed, with seven abstentions (Algeria, Cuba, France, Gabon, Guinea, Mali and Mauritania).

Elimination of Foreign Military Bases

Consideration of the question of foreign military bases arose as a result of Resolution 2165 of the twenty-first session. The debate was very brief, being limited to attacks by certain countries on foreign bases in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Resolution 2344, which was sponsored by India, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia and referred the matter to the ENDC for further study, was passed 105 (Canada) in favour to none opposed, with 23 abstentions. In commenting on this item, General Burns pointed out that the proposal to eliminate foreign bases involved the sacrifice of the collective security arrangements of the Western countries without any balancing obligation on the part of the Soviet Union and its allies, and that phased, balanced progress toward general and complete disarmament would result in the elimination of foreign military bases.

Summary

The Canadian delegation played an active role in the consideration of the disarmament items at the twenty-second General Assembly. Canada co-sponsored resolutions urging the ENDC to continue its consideration of the non-proliferation treaty and general and complete disarmament. Canada's direct contribution to the Assembly's decision to request the Secretary-General to prepare a report on nuclear weapons and participation on the panel of experts who prepared the report led Canada to take a prominent part in formulating