

Special Session.

The guidelines for WDC state that the campaign should be carried out in all regions in a balanced, factual and objective manner, should provide an opportunity for discussion and debate in all countries on all points of view relating to disarmament issues, objectives and conditions, and recognize the respective roles of the U.N. system, member states and non-governmental organizations in the Campaign. Another major Canadian objective was embodied in the WDC text, namely the inclusion of a review mechanism whereby the effectiveness of the Campaign can be examined periodically. In the Canadian statement to UNSSOD II on WDC on June 23 the Canadian representative said with regard to the importance of ensuring universality, balance and objectivity: "Canada is strongly of the view that this Special Session should provide for a review mechanism to assist member governments and the Centre for Disarmament in meeting this requirement. Canada therefore proposes that the Special Session mandate the Centre for Disarmament to make a detailed annual report on disarmament information, education and research activities in the U.N. system for consideration by the First Committee." This Canadian proposal is reflected in the WDC text adopted by UNSSOD II.

The WDC text also recognizes the central guidance role of the Centre for Disarmament within the U.N. system for WDC activities as advocated in the Canadian statement. Canada also urged recognition for the major role NGO's have to play in the Campaign: "It is Canada's view that this Special Session should encourage the efforts of all participants in the Campaign by formally recognizing in whatever wording it produces on this subject the important part Member States and non-governmental organizations, as well as the U.N. system, have to play in it."

Bilateral and Multilateral ACD Fora

Apart from Canada's arms control and disarmament activities in the United Nations, it also participates actively in other international fora to encourage greater progress in this field. Having advocated a continuation of the SALT/START process, Canada is encouraged that the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks began in Geneva on June 29, 1982. In these talks, the US made an initial proposal to reduce in a first phase the overall number of ballistic missile warheads by at least one-

third below current levels with no more than half of these warheads deployed on land-based missiles. In a second phase the United States will seek equal ceilings on ballistic missile throw-weight, that is, the payload a missile can carry to a target.

The Soviet side has called for an interim freeze on strategic nuclear weapons to coincide with the beginning of the negotiations without making it a precondition. The US and the USSR seem to agree on the principle of seeking major reductions. It is encouraging that both sides have stated that they could respect the main provisions of the unratified SALT II Agreement while the negotiations proceed.

Canada has been a strong proponent of the intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) talks which began earlier this year. Since the NATO Ministerial meeting of December 1979, Canada has supported the "two track" decision to plan to deploy, starting in late 1983, Pershing II and Ground-Launched Cruise Missiles and at the same time to engage the Soviet Union in negotiations with the aim of setting limits on the INF of both sides at the lowest possible level. The maintenance of the resolve of the allied governments to improve NATO's INF capabilities in order to counter the threat posed by the Soviet mobile, triple warhead SS-20 missile, if the negotiations should fail to reduce that threat, is considered essential to provide an inducement for the Soviet Union to negotiate seriously on mutual constraints.

The "two-track" policy of NATO was undoubtedly the main factor in bringing the Soviet Union to the negotiating table in Geneva last November. Draft treaties have now been tabled by both sides. The US position, which was worked out in consultation with its allies, including Canada, is based on the "zero-level" proposal, under which no Pershing II or cruise missiles would be deployed if the Soviet Union agreed to dismantle its SS-20, SS-4 and SS-5 missiles. The Soviet Union, starting from a claim of current equality in INF in Europe based on what is considered to be a distorted comparison of the delivery systems of the two sides, is seeking equal reductions from existing levels that would leave a preponderance of Soviet SS-20 missiles in place with no new INF on the NATO side.

Within the North Atlantic Alliance, Canada has promoted progress towards arms control and disarmament. (See article on SSEA address to NAC in the February 1982 Disarmament Bulletin.) On June 10, 1982 the Alliance issued a document on

arms control and disarmament calling for progress in the INF, START and MBFR talks as well as in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Alliance also reaffirmed its commitment to efforts to promote stable peace on a global scale:

— "In the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, the Allies will actively pursue efforts to obtain equitable and verifiable agreements including a total ban on chemical weapons.

— "In the Second Special Session on Disarmament of the United Nations General Assembly ... we trust that new impetus will be given to negotiations current and in prospect, especially by promoting military openness and verification, that the need for strict observance of the principle of renunciation of force enshrined in the United Nations Charter will be reaffirmed and that compliance with existing agreements will be strengthened."

In the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction (MBFR) talks in which Canada is a direct participant, the West tabled a proposal on July 8, 1982 for a new negotiating position. The draft treaty, which makes substantial concessions to the Eastern side, is aimed at injecting new life into these negotiations.

The West has proposed that in a single agreement (as contrasted with the two sequential agreements proposed previously) all direct participants — that is, all countries having troops in the area of reductions — will undertake a binding obligation to reduce to a common collective ceiling on each side of approximately 700,000 ground force manpower and 900,000 ground and air forces combined. These reductions would be in four stages over a period of six years, with the United States and the Soviet Union withdrawing 13,000 and 30,000 troops respectively in the first year after conclusion of the Agreement. Agreement on manpower data remains a pre-condition.

In the Committee on Disarmament, the multilateral negotiating body in Geneva, Canada has been participating in the new Working Group on a Comprehensive Test Ban which is considering verification and compliance measures, and in the Working Group on Chemical Weapons. Canada is also playing an active role in the discussions on arms control and outer space. In his speech to UNSSOD II the Prime Minister drew attention to the serious gaps in the present international agreements and proposed that an early start be made on a treaty to prohibit the development, testing and deployment of all weapons for use in outer space.