- *Proposition 6*
  Third parties, including countries like Canada, can make a significant contribution to the verification of regional arms control agreements.

The success of the Sinai experience suggests that third parties, including countries like Canada, can play an important role in designing and implementing verification systems that would complement national means of verification. A contribution of this kind would appear to mesh well with broader Canadian foreign policy objectives and, more particularly, constitute an effective follow-on to the Program of Action announced by the Secretary of State for External Affairs at the United Nations General Assembly in September 1985.

Third parties may play different roles in the verification process ranging from the offering of technical and industrial expertise to direct forms of monitoring including participation in multilateral consultative arrangements. In the regional context, where the national technical means (NTMs) of the superpowers may be neither sufficient nor relevant to assure the viability of an agreement, third parties like Canada may be able to exert greater influence with the local parties. A trend toward increased multilateralization of the arms control process and verification systems at the regional level may, as James Schear suggests, lead to the development of new international norms and procedures whereby parties to an agreement specifically request the participation of other states in the monitoring of their agreement.[69]

Canada, through the expertise in its government agencies and in the private sector, certainly has the capacity to provide state-of-the-art sensor technology for multilateral verification. Moreover, the Sinai experience clearly indicates that the task at hand could be managed without resorting to extremely sophisticated levels of technology and that the capacity to adapt existing and proven technology imaginatively and quickly were qualities of greater importance. Such an anticipatory, quick reaction role might be one to which Canada should aspire. An opportunity to apply some of the lessons derived from the Sinai experience may soon come as the possibility of significant arms control initiatives appear in the regional context of Europe. It is here in the multilateral context that Canadian research into the verification methods and systems necessary for agreements could prove significant in facilitating the arms control negotiation process.

[69] James Schear, "National Methods of Treaty Verification and the Role of Third Countries: Compatibility or Conflict", *Journal of Arms Control*, Vol. 7, No. 1 (May 1986), pp. 10-16.