

It is my hope that in the next twenty-five years members of your Movement will give even greater attention to chemical weapons and to other non-nuclear weapon systems. Part of the educational task of the Movement is, I believe, to increase public understanding that to attain peace and human survival one must seek to limit and reduce all weapons systems. It would be a tragedy if a result of the understandable and justifiable public concern about nuclear weapons were to make non-nuclear war more likely. Your business and the business of governments must continue to be the promotion of steps which reduce the likelihood of the use of force - the use of any weapons system.

My second suggestion concerns verification. Prime Minister Trudeau said at the second Special Session that "the international community should address itself to verification as one of the most significant factors in disarmament negotiations in the 1980s." He was, of course, addressing primarily governments. But individuals with expertise and non-governmental organizations also have a vital role to play not only in achieving greater public understanding but also in ensuring that all available expertise is applied to this increasingly complex subject. Since World War II Canada has attached special importance to the development of international verification mechanisms. In recent years the Government has drawn on technical expertise in a number of departments. Further steps are being taken at the present time. We have committed funds to enable Canada to become a member of the international seismic-data exchange, an international verification mechanism being developed in connection with a comprehensive nuclear test ban. In a few months Canada will be joining those countries already exchanging data on a provisional basis. We have called for the early implementation of the Exchange in advance of a treaty.

Within our research and public information program, established after UNSSOD I and substantially increased in size this year, we intend to put special emphasis in the coming year on research projects related to verification by Canadian universities, institutes and individuals.

We will also institutionalize an expanding Canadian role in verification issues in order to utilize effectively expertise in several government departments and in the private sector in the negotiation of agreements on nuclear, chemical and conventional weapons systems. I am referring in particular to expertise in seismology, nuclear safeguards, remote sensing, toxicology and protective measures against chemical weapons, and communication satellites.