

force in March 1975. Parties to the convention have undertaken to continue negotiations towards early agreement on measures for the prohibition of chemical weapons.

Environmental warfare

Resolutions of the UN General Assembly in 1974 and 1975, supported by Canada, called on the CCD to reach early agreement on a convention to prohibit military or other hostile uses of environmental-modification techniques. This question was given a preliminary examination by experts in the CCD in August and Canada tabled a working paper that attempted to identify, and to make a preliminary assessment of, the military potential and feasibility of various ways of influencing the environment. Towards the end of the CCD's 1975 session, the United States and the Soviet Union tabled identical texts of a draft convention on this question. This draft will be considered in detail by the CCD in 1976.

Conventional weapons

The International Committee of the Red Cross met in 1974 during the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, a conference of government experts on certain conventional weapons. This conference was the first attempt in many years by the international community to consider the prohibition of or restriction on the use of specific conventional weapons that might cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects. Among the types of weapon considered at the conference were napalm and other incendiaries, high-velocity projectiles, and blast and fragmentation bombs. Another experts' conference is to be held early in 1976, and the reports of the two conferences will be presented to a session of the Diplomatic Conference that is to be held in Geneva in 1976.

Canada has sought to encourage the international consideration of this question, to ensure that governments were provided with complete information as to the nature, use and effects of such weapons, and to that end has participated actively in the conferences of government experts. Canada supported a resolution at the thirtieth session of the UN General Assembly calling on the Diplomatic Conference to continue its consideration of the use of specific conventional weapons, including

any that were excessively injurious or indiscriminate in their effects, and its search for agreement, for humanitarian reasons, on rules prohibiting or restricting the use of such weapons.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones

Both in 1974 and 1975, particular prominence was given in the UN General Assembly disarmament debates to the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones. At the thirtieth session, nine of the 25 resolutions on disarmament dealt with the creation, strengthening and conditions for the establishment of such zones. Canada is strongly sympathetic in principle to the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones where they are feasible and would promote stability, and when their provisions are fully consistent with the objectives of the NPT. However, Canada's positions on such proposals are determined on a case-by-case basis.

Other measures

Other steps taken during 1975 by the UN General Assembly towards disarmament included the establishment of an *ad hoc* committee to review the role of the UN on this subject, a decision to update an earlier report on the economic and social consequences of the arms race, and a renewed call for reductions in military budgets. The Assembly also called for intensified efforts to promote disarmament negotiations and to ensure that resources freed by disarmament were used to promote economic and social development. The Assembly renewed for a further year the mandate of the *ad hoc* committee on a proposed world disarmament conference, requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the Secretariat's Disarmament Affairs Division, and noted that preparations were being made for a conference in 1977 to review the Seabed Treaty.

In addition, the Assembly adopted a resolution, sponsored by the Soviet Union, requesting the CCD to negotiate an agreement on the "prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass