

A number of participants argued that Canada should refuse to accept port visits from nuclear-armed or nuclear-powered ships, and that government plans to deal with potential nuclear accidents in Canadian ports are ineffective. One participant suggested that DND is well-prepared for accidents, but does not have sufficient decontamination units to handle the probable number of casualties. It was recommended that the government either provide the civilian protection and response capabilities needed, or stop the ships from coming into Canadian harbours. This led into a discussion of the likelihood of a nuclear-related accident, with some suggesting the risk is high while others suggesting it is extremely low.

A number of other topics were also discussed at the meeting. Comments on each are summarized below.

World Summit

A number of participants voiced approval of the Canadian proposal for a World Summit on Instruments of War and Weapons of Mass Destruction and of the general Canadian outline for post-hostilities activities in the Gulf region. It was suggested that Canada might also want to support the concept of humanitarian ceasefires (for immunization and other civilian relief purposes) in the Gulf War and other conflicts.

Chemical and biological weapons control

One participant noted that as chemical and biological weapons technologies have ready civilian applications, industrialized countries cannot easily deny these technologies to the Third World. He suggested that to make verifiable chemical and biological weapons agreements more attractive to developing countries, any proposed international inspectorate should deal with health and environmental, as well as proliferation, concerns. For example, an inspecting agency could provide advice on safety and security issues and procedures.

Missile technology control

The overlap between the technologies required for missile and satellite development was noted, along with its implications for a potential North-

South divide on control issues, as evidenced by Indian concerns about the implications for commercial secrecy of an intrusive verification regime. It was suggested that states such as India are not prepared to accept another two-tier system like the non-proliferation regime in the area of missile technology control.

Arms transfers

It was suggested that there is hypocrisy in Canada's encouraging others to restrain their arms exports while we continue to subsidize weapons production and participate in arms exhibitions. Some participants recommended that Canada stop exporting arms completely (or stop, at minimum, exporting arms to the Middle East).

It was suggested that Canada use the "Group of Seven" industrialized countries or OECD or other forum, possibly East-West, to organize a discussion on the control of conventional arms transfers prior to the World Summit.

CTBT

One participant argued that Canada's policy towards the PTBT Amendment Conference was inconsistent with our stated goal of achieving a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty (CTBT).

Another participant made the following recommendations for Canadian action on a CTBT:

- strongly support constituencies in the US that are pressing for early negotiation of a CTBT;
- further develop our step-by-step policy by defining the number and upper yield of tests to be negotiated in future steps, with reductions each year to a target date for eliminating all testing. This position could be presented in a working paper to the CD's ad hoc committee that deals with nuclear testing issues; and
- actively assist the President of the PTBT Amendment Conference in his mandate to conduct consultations and to resume the work of the Conference at an appropriate time.

Approaches to security and arms control

Several participants argued that prospective arms controllers should not

look at weapons in the abstract but should also consider the underlying security concerns that lead countries to accumulate weapons. It was suggested that a variety of bilateral and multilateral political agreements must be in place before arms control has a hope of being successful. In this regard, Canada's approach to post-war activities in the Persian Gulf and general proposals for cooperative security were welcomed. It was noted that non-governmental organizations have advocated similar ideas for years.

One participant opined that NATO's success has been due to the fact that it is a political, as well as military, body, that it has worked through consensus, and that it has operated under the UN umbrella. NATO could thus perhaps serve as a model for other regional security arrangements. Others disagreed, arguing that NATO has been successful in exporting its wars over the past forty years. It was also suggested that NATO's success has had much to do with the wealth of the countries involved, thus the alliance may not be a useful model for other regions.

It was suggested that Canada's arms control efforts are close to being counterproductive. Rather than act as if the norm is to have weapons and to solve conflicts by resort to violence, Canada should instead try to change the norm, so that weapons and resort to violence are regarded as unacceptable.

Several participants argued that true security cannot be achieved through armaments. It was suggested that disarmament is a mechanical process and that arms controllers should broaden their view to look at issues of peace and justice.

Arms and the environment

Some participants expressed concern about the potential for environmental disaster as a result of the Gulf War.

In addition, it was suggested that Canada should put the issue of the environmental consequences of preparations for war and of war itself on the agenda of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in June 1992. ■