

which Canadian expertise from government, the business sector and the academic community can be combined to address the issue of arms control verification.

The program has succeeded in initiating projects involving researchers from a dozen Canadian universities and research institutes as well as from a number of commercial firms. In addition, it has drawn upon the full scope of expertise within the federal government through a system of *ad hoc* interdepartmental technical advisory groups established to assist with major projects.

The program's work has improved co-operation, communication and understanding within government and between government and other sectors of Canadian society, particularly at the technical or working levels. It has also accentuated internationally the projection of Canadian efforts in this field, as a co-ordinated pragmatic program.

The central aim of the Verification Research Program is to contribute to the process of achieving verifiable arms control and disarmament agreements that will serve to improve the security of Canada and its allies. To achieve this central aim it focusses on certain Canadian arms control priorities in the

multilateral arms control and disarmament field. These include:

- achievement of a comprehensive convention to ban chemical weapons;
- the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear test ban;
- the development of a treaty to prevent an arms race in outer space;
- the pursuit of arms control and military confidence-building in Europe; and
- the conduct of other research as may be required from time to time.

To achieve its objectives, the program provides for a modest in-house research capability, in addition to projects contracted out to universities and commercial firms. The Verification Research Unit develops initiatives in support of ongoing negotiations and activities that involve primarily five Canadian delegations abroad:

- The Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. This 40-nation body is the only ongoing multilateral negotiating forum for arms control and disarmament that addresses issues on a global basis.