

## CHAPTER 1: COLLECTIVE SECURITY AND THE RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT

### Arms Control and Disarmament

At the first United Nations Special Session devoted to disarmament, delegates expressed the strong wish of member states for progress in reducing the risks of war. Although no major arms control and disarmament agreement was reached during the year, the Special Session, held in New York from May 23 to June 30, provided a stimulus for the use of existing means of consultation between governments. It established a framework for future negotiations in a new Committee on Disarmament and encouraged the intensification of international efforts in several important fields.

The most notable accomplishment of the Special Session was its reorganization of the negotiating and deliberative organs. Henceforth, the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly will deal exclusively with disarmament and related questions of international security. The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD), the multilateral negotiating body in Geneva, has been renamed the Committee on Disarmament (CD) and has gained eight new members. The Committee on Disarmament will operate under the guidance of rotating chairmen rather than under the joint chairmanship of the United States and the Soviet Union. With these changes, France, which did not participate in the work of the earlier Committee, has agreed to take part in the work of the new one. China may follow this example.

Canadian concern for the success of the disarmament and arms control process was emphasized by the Prime Minister in addressing the Special Session. He proposed a four-point "strategy of suffocation" for the nuclear arms race. He advocated a comprehensive test ban, agreements to stop the flight-testing of all new strategic delivery vehicles and to prohibit all production of fissionable material for weapons purposes and an agreement to limit, and then progressively to reduce, military spending on new strategic nuclear weapons systems. These objectives were included in the Final Document of the Special Session which was adopted by consensus.

Three months later, at the regular session of the General Assembly, the spirit of compromise which had marked the Special Session continued to be evident. The Canadian representative reviewed the points of major concern to Canada arising out of the final document and stated that Canada would work to widen the areas of agreement developed at the Special Session. States must move beyond arms control to real disarmament. It was Canada's hope that the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks between the United States and the Soviet Union would soon lead to an agreement that a comprehensive test ban would be pursued as a matter of urgency. The Canadian representative noted the renewed interest in the idea of the cessation of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes. This idea was developed further in a resolution proposed by Canada which the General Assembly adopted by a very large majority.