

On chemical weapons, we have played a prominent role in seeking to overcome the remaining hurdles in the Geneva negotiations on a global and comprehensive convention banning the development, production, stockpiling and use of such weapons.

We loudly applaud President Bush's commitment that the United States will be an original signatory of the convention and will destroy all its stocks of chemical weapons. We are working actively with the U.S. and other allies to ensure that the negotiations reach a successful conclusion next year.

In the interim, we have recently instituted strict controls on all 50 chemicals that are considered precursors for chemical weapons, and are exploring with other countries ways of controlling the export of so-called "dual-use" technology.

In the area of biological weapons, we have been preparing actively and intensively for the third Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention, which will be held in Geneva in September. We are calling on parties to arrive at compliance measures for this Convention, which outlaws biological weapons, and we have put forward proposals towards this end.

In seeking to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, we are energetically continuing our efforts to lobby all parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to lend their support to the indefinite extension of this vital Treaty when it comes up for renewal in 1995.

In addition, we continue our efforts to curtail the proliferation of means of delivery for such weapons.

Canada met in March with its partners in the Missile Technology Control Regime and will be meeting with them again later this year to consider expanding participation in the Regime to include such countries as the Soviet Union, and to look at broadening the scope of the Regime to include more categories of missiles.

On conventional weapons, we are calling for early action to establish a global system of exchanging information about arms transfers. We are urging all countries to take immediate efforts to implement the recommendations likely to be forthcoming from the UN experts group now studying arms transfer transparency.

Not content to wait for the international community to move in this direction, Canada has taken the lead in promoting transparency by publishing, under my predecessor's authority, the first annual report of exports of military goods from Canada. We are also proposing the establishment of an appropriate forum for consultations about situations where excessive conventional arms build-ups seem to be developing.