

negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on the reduction of short-range nuclear forces upon the signing of a CFE agreement. This is consistent with the announcement by President Bush in May to cancel the United States' land-based SNF modernization programs and represents another significant indication that the superpowers have indeed embarked on the path of nuclear disarmament.

Efforts to progress towards a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing have been frustrated by differences of view on how to proceed towards this goal, to which my delegation attaches great im-

It is our solemn duty to continue to build towards a world where the power of the atom will only be used to benefit humanity.

portance. However, even on this difficult issue, I believe there is justification for optimism. After a long hiatus, the Conference on Disarmament has this summer established an ad hoc committee on the item entitled "Nuclear Test Ban," which has opened the door for substantive work on this issue. Canada actively participated in the recent meetings of this ad hoc committee and looks forward to the continuation of this body's work in next year's session of the CD.

Equally encouraging is the fact that the United States and the Soviet Union have concluded verification protocols to the 1974 and 1976 treaties which can now be ratified. Canada looks forward to the early resumption of bilateral superpower negotiations on further restrictions on nuclear testing. The Partial Test Ban Treaty Amendment Conference, which will be held in January, will provide an additional opportunity for focused discussions on issues related to a CTBT.

The momentum that has characterized the bilateral nuclear negotiations has also been present in efforts to reduce and control levels of conventional forces in Europe. As a participant in

the CFE Negotiation in Vienna, Canada has joined the other states represented in that forum in a determined effort to conclude an agreement this year that would drastically lower the current level of armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe. Prospects are indeed excellent that a CFE agreement will be concluded before year's end. This will be reinforced, of course, by the continued observation of the terms of the Stockholm Document, and the application of further confidence- and security-building measures to be agreed in the CSBM negotiations now taking place in Vienna.

There have been equally welcome developments recently in efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate

chemical weapons. We regard the bilateral US-USSR agreement on chemical weapons destruction, signed on June 1, as a major accomplishment and one that should give encouragement to the entire international community in our collective efforts to conclude and implement a worldwide ban on all such weapons.

The great progress that is underway in the East-West context has contributed to an equally welcome reduction of tensions in several parts of the world marred by regional conflicts in recent years. Unfortunately however, as we are all acutely aware, there are regions where tensions continue to be high and, as a result, where the states concerned have yet to embark on the path towards the goals enshrined in Article VI. It is Canada's hope that the disarmament process that is unfolding in the East-West context will continue unabated, and that it will be echoed in other regions characterized by high levels of armament.

While the NPT is the basis of the international non-proliferation regime, it acknowledges, in Article VII, the right of groups of states to conclude regional treaties to assure against the presence

of nuclear weapons in their respective territories. Canada does not consider such arrangements to be a fully satisfactory alternative to ratification of the NPT. However, we do regard such initiatives as useful contributions to the goals of non-proliferation, provided they command the support of the countries in the relevant area and promote regional and international stability. Such zones may be of particular importance in regions that include states that have not yet joined the NPT.

In anticipation of this Conference, numerous ideas have been proposed intended to strengthen various aspects of the NPT. We note in particular the useful working paper submitted by Egypt, which considers a range of relevant issues, and the proposal of Nigeria concerning negative security assurances. My delegation welcomes the constructive spirit in which these and other ideas have been introduced to our discussions and looks forward to considering them in the work of the appropriate committees.

Canada intends to work closely and in a spirit of cooperation with all delegations over the next three weeks in a thorough evaluation of the NPT. My delegation hopes we can agree on a consensus final document that acknowledges the important achievements of this Treaty and identifies areas where there exists the possibility of further strengthening the positive influence of the NPT.

A positive outcome of this Review Conference will establish an excellent basis for consideration in 1995 of extension of the NPT. Canada firmly believes that our goal should be the indefinite extension of this vital Treaty at the 1995 conference.

In this era of rapid change and renewed hope, the world will be looking to us to make a strong and unequivocal statement reaffirming our collective commitment to the goals enshrined in the NPT. It is our solemn duty to ensure that these expectations are met and in so doing that we continue to build towards a world where the power of the atom will only be used to benefit humanity. ■