

At the same time, we have been deeply disturbed by a tendency among some others to adopt positions which can only act to undermine the vital consensus which underlies the existing treaties on non-proliferation and nuclear testing. Clearly, compromise and forward movement is required on the part of everyone. But the pursuit of other objectives should not be allowed to threaten those existing agreements which have become so vital.

Mr. President, it is Canada's firm view that both the Non-Proliferation Treaty and a Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty are too important for international peace and security to be held hostage one to the other.

Regional nuclear arms, the threat of chemical proliferation and use has been raised starkly again by the situation in the Persian Gulf. We must move quickly to a comprehensive and global ban. We urge all parties at the Conference on Disarmament to ensure that the opportunity for a successful agreement is not lost and that agreement is reached soon. During this Assembly, Canada, along with Poland, will seek to strengthen the commitment of all Members to that end.

In addition, Mr. President, there is the very important issue of arms transfers and the arms trade. It is critical that peace in Europe not be purchased at the price of a more innovative arms bazaar elsewhere. That arms bazaar has stunted development by hijacking scarce resources. It has distorted whole economies. It has increased bloodshed.

It is important in this context that all parties to the conventional force reduction talks in Europe take steps to ensure that weapons affected by that agreement not end up as contributions to potential conflicts elsewhere in the world.

The continued proliferation of ballistic missile technology is particularly worrisome. Ballistic missiles raise the prospect of the delivery of weapons of mass destruction into the heart of enemy territory. That possibility means not only great potential suffering; it only induces regional arms races.

That is why Canada has so strongly supported the recent expansion of the membership of the Missile Technology Control Regime. This Assembly should focus on this issue and call for all members to take measures to control the export of this technology. Canada will play a leading role in this effort.

Canada also believes that it is important to make arms transfers and procurement as transparent as is prudent and practical. Transparency builds confidence and is a recognition of the obligation we all have to the common interest. That is why Canada has strongly supported the work of the UN Group of Government Experts on Arms Transfer Transparency and why we support the widest possible voluntary reporting to the UN of military expenditures, procurement and arms transfers. I am pleased to announce that, this year for the first time, Canada will be