

Verification

I would now like to turn to the question of verification. Delegations will recall that, two years ago, Resolution 45/65 of December 4, 1990 welcomed the Group of Governmental Experts study on "The Role of the United Nations in the Field of Verification." That consensus resolution encouraged Member States to give active consideration to the Group of Experts study's recommendations and to assist the Secretary-General in their implementation where appropriate. It also called on the Secretary-General to report to UNGA 47 on actions to implement these recommendations.

During the last decade, Canada has played a particularly active role in the United Nations consideration of the issue of "verification in all its aspects," including the study conducted by the Group of Governmental Experts. Following on this, Canada, working closely with a number of other Member States, including France and the Netherlands, and building upon the text of earlier consensus resolutions on verification, will submit a draft verification resolution at this year's UNGA. The resolution will take note of the Secretary-General's report on implementing the recommendations of the Group of Experts study and reiterate the call for assistance by Member States in this implementation. As I have said before in this Committee, the usefulness of United Nations activities with respect to the Group of Experts study's recommendations will be determined in large measure by the assistance provided by Member States.

The draft resolution will go beyond this, however. Since the 1990 Group of Governmental Experts study, there have been major developments in the international system that indicate a renewed interest in, and commitment to, multilateral institutions for addressing security questions. Such developments — including the recent experience of the United Nations and the increasing reliance of the world community on United Nations peacekeeping activities — provide important opportunities for the consideration of a useful United Nations role in verification.

To explore these new opportunities, the draft resolution introduces language calling for a follow-on Group of Governmental Experts study focusing on two topics:

- 1) the preliminary practical lessons from the recent UN experience and other in-

ternational developments relating to verification, for UN verification activities; and

- 2) how the verification of arms limitation and disarmament agreements can facilitate UN activities with respect to preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building.

Canada is convinced that verification remains as relevant today as it was at any time in the past. Verification is not an East-West issue that has died with the Cold War. In the words endorsed unanimously in Resolution 43/81 (B) of December 7, 1988, "adequate and effective verification is an essential element of all arms limitation and disarmament agreements."

Moreover, verification must be seen as more than simply a matter of substituting concrete evidence for blind trust or of providing some sort of "police" function for arms control and disarmament agreements. Rather, verification is one dimension of a common institution-building process. It should help meet the need to institutionalize, in the context of relations among states, the kind of accepted rules, procedures and expectations that govern the conduct of relations among individuals in all civilized societies. Such rules and procedures do not presume bad faith or malevolent intent, but they allow for such possibilities and provide a framework in which unjustified accusations can be authoritatively rebutted, misunderstandings clarified and resolved, and non-compliance objectively established. Viewed in this light, an exploration of the role that verification activities can play in relation to the ideas advanced by the Secretary-General in his *An Agenda for Peace* report, should prove very timely.

BTWC

While on the topic of verification, I would also like to briefly comment on the work that has been accomplished to date by the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts concerning potential verification measures for the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC). A framework has been established that will permit detailed examination of such measures and an eventual narrowing of the field to a promising few.

The difficult technical task of assessing each measure's potential contribution to verification, simply or in combination with other measures, should not be underestimated. At the same time, however, we must not allow the study to become so bogged down in detail that we lose sight of the overall determination of the last BTWC Review Conference that effective verification could reinforce the Convention. With those objectives clearly before them, the experts should be able to provide the technical basis in 1993 for early subsequent consideration of such measures by the appropriate political authorities of States Parties to the Convention.

Arms Register

As a country that participated in the Secretary-General's Panel of Governmental Experts, Canada welcomes his report. I am especially pleased that the report reflects a consensus among a wide geographic range of countries. In that aspect, the report is one further indication of the dedication of the global community to promote transparency in armaments and to tackle in a practical way the problem of excessive and destabilizing arms build-

NPT Preparatory Committee to Meet

During UNGA 47's First Committee, 133 countries voted in favour of a resolution that set in motion the process of extending the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) at the Treaty's Fifth Review Conference in 1995. No country voted against the resolution and only Cuba and India abstained. The resolution mandated the formation of a Preparatory Committee, open to all NPT parties, to prepare for the Review Conference, with its first meeting to be held in New York from May 10 to 14, 1993. The 1995 Conference will be crucial for the future of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. As noted by Prime Minister Mulroney in a speech at Johns Hopkins University last May, Canada is pressing for indefinite extension of the Treaty as well as universal adherence to it. Despite bilateral and multilateral urging, a number of major countries, including Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, India, Israel and Pakistan, have not yet acceded to the NPT.