

will soon agree on further mutual limitations and reductions in strategic nuclear forces in order to end the arms race and stabilize the nuclear balance.

### **Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions (MBFR)**

While Canada is not involved in the bilateral SALT negotiations, it is a direct participant in the other principal East-West arms-control negotiation now under way, the Conference on the Mutual Reduction of Forces and Armaments and Associated Measures in Central Europe, which is aimed at reducing the level of armed confrontation in Central Europe. These highly-complex negotiations, which began in Vienna in October 1973, include the NATO and Warsaw Pact countries with military forces stationed in Central Europe. For NATO the direct participants are Canada, the United States, Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg; for the Warsaw Pact, they are the U.S.S.R., Poland, Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic. The negotiations have been made possible by a general lessening of Cold War tensions in Europe and improvement in the relations between the United States and the U.S.S.R., as reflected in the 1972 SALT agreements, and the convening of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE). As had generally been expected, because of the sensitivity and complexity of the issues to be negotiated, progress has been slow, and by the end of 1975 no agreement had been reached.

Canada has been a consistent supporter of MBFR within the NATO Alliance, and has played an active part in the formulation of policy and the conduct of the negotiations. As with SALT, Canada's interest in MBFR results from the belief that a balanced reduction in the level of armed confrontation between East and West will advance the cause of world peace and security and reduce the possibility of war. It derives also from a recognition that the security of Canada is inseparable from that of Western Europe.

### **Conference of the Committee on Disarmament**

The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD), of which Canada is an active member, deals with those arms-control

and disarmament issues that are of wide concern to the international community and are intended to be of international application. Multilateral discussions take place in Geneva on a regular basis and, though it is not a United Nations body, the CCD reports annually to the UN General Assembly. In the general debate on disarmament during its annual sessions, the General Assembly considers the report and proposals of the CCD.

The CCD and its predecessor, the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee (ENDC), have negotiated several multilateral arms-control agreements, including the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water (Partial Test Ban Treaty) of 1963, the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof (Seabed Treaty) of 1971, and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BW Convention). All these measures have been ratified by Canada.

Although no arms-control measure has emerged from the CCD since the BW Convention, it continues to consider the possibilities for progress in a number of important areas. In 1975, these included continuing efforts to conclude a comprehensive nuclear test-ban agreement; a study of the arms-control implications of the application of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes; efforts to reach agreement on effective measures for the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and for their destruction; a study of the notion of nuclear-weapon-free zones; and preliminary consideration of the possibility of concluding a convention to prohibit the use of environmental-modification techniques for military purposes or other hostile ends. Canada was particularly active in the CCD's consideration of the arms-control implications of peaceful nuclear explosions and tabled working papers on the questions of chemical weapons and environmental warfare.