

To act rapidly, the UN must be able to count on qualified human resources, available on short notice, to complement its own personnel. This is why Canada has prepared for the Secretary-General an inventory of resource persons suited to missions of good offices or specializing in elections, human rights, the administration of justice and other such fields.

At the first Summit in January 1992, the Security Council recognized that "non-military sources of instability in the economic, social, humanitarian and ecological fields have become threats to international peace and security." Let us recognize once and for all the need to expand the traditional concept of security, and mobilize all the components of the UN system in order to attack conflict at its very roots.

We also feel that the preventive capacity of the UN system would be strengthened if we better employed the expertise of those who have direct knowledge of the field. ECOSOC [Economic and Social Council of the United Nations] should periodically hold public hearings, similar to those held last June on the Development Agenda, with a view to assisting the UN system to better anticipate problems and develop strategies for attacking the economic and social causes of conflicts. The findings of its hearings could be provided to the Security Council and the Secretary-General so they can develop appropriate preventive measures.

Any strategy for preventing armed conflicts also involves pursuing tangible disarmament objectives. Canada has established two priority objectives for the next few years: nuclear non-proliferation and the control of conventional arms.

Nuclear arms control and disarmament is happening: we are continuing negotiations on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to ban nuclear testing for all time. Canada is working in the Conference on Disarmament to secure a mandate for negotiations on a convention to prohibit the production of fissile material for weapons purposes. Together, these treaties will have the effect of constraining and preventing a future nuclear arms race.

In 1995 we will have to decide the fate of the world's nuclear non-proliferation regime — the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). For Canada, there is only one option: the NPT must be indefinitely extended. I urge all governments to support this option, which will allow for the continuation of a crucial instrument to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons technology and provide new impetus to reduce existing stocks.

We must also recognize that, although the threat of nuclear weapons is of prime concern, the ongoing use of conventional weapons is an equally dangerous and very real threat to peace and security.