



## Members of Consultative Group Attend First Committee Sessions

The following article is based on a report prepared by the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations.

From October 12 to 17, nine members of the Consultative Group on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs visited the United Nations in order to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the First Committee of the UN General Assembly. The First Committee is the principal UN General Assembly forum dealing with arms control, disarmament and international security questions. The programme in New York was designed to give the participants a better understanding of the operation of the First Committee, upon which they could draw during the course of their future work.

The participants were briefed on the arms control and disarmament activities of the Permanent Mission of Canada, the responsibilities of the Ambassador for Disarmament, overall UN organization, and the First Committee agenda. They were addressed by UN representatives of Poland, Cameroon, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and by UN secretariat officials. The participants attended a number of meetings of the First Committee, where they were able to see firsthand how the arms control and disarmament process works in the First Committee. In the First Committee, the group heard the main Canadian intervention, delivered on October 16, by Mr. Douglas Roche, the Ambassador for Disarmament. There were also opportunities to make bilateral contacts, to attend sessions of the UN General Assembly and other committee meetings, and to meet non-governmental representatives at the UN.

During the course of their visit to the United Nations, the intricacies of multilateral diplomacy and the complexities of trying to obtain agreement on texts of draft resolutions became apparent to the participants, as was the fact that "reasonableness of position" is not always defined in the same manner



Ambassador Douglas Roche and members of the Consultative Group on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs during their visit to the United Nations in October.

by all countries. Against this background, the participants probed — and prodded — the depths of Canadian arms control policies and did not hesitate to advance their own suggestions for appropriate Canadian policies.

Administrative arrangements for the Consultative Group programme were coordinated by Mr. Firdaus Kharas, Executive Director of the United Nations Association in Canada, who also served as the programme conducting officer.

Participants in the Consultative Group programme were:

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Professor Michel Fortmann  
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