

ately, with the final goal being a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing.

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

## UNGA 45: Hopes for First Committee

As this *Bulletin* went to press, the First Committee of the 45th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 45) was beginning its consideration of arms control, disarmament and international security questions. The Canadian delegation, led by Ambassador for Disarmament Peggy Mason, was hopeful that this year's session would be characterized by the same positive atmosphere evident in last year's work.

Building on the spirit of UNGA 44, Canada will work closely this year with the Soviet Union and the newly democratic states of Eastern Europe to overcome the differences that have traditionally divided East and West and obstructed progress in the First Committee. At the same time, Canada will do its best to prevent East-West rhetoric and disagreements being replaced by an equally unproductive North-South divide.

Canada will play a leading role in UNGA 45 on several resolutions. These will include a resolution introducing the recently-completed experts' study on the UN role in verification and Canada's annual resolution entitled "Prohibition on the production of fissionable materials." As part of a general effort to increase consideration of proliferation issues, particularly in light of recent developments in the Middle East, Canada will be active on the chemical weapons agenda item, working to strengthen the annual Canada-Poland resolution. The Canadian delegation will also assume a prominent role on the issue of nuclear testing, reflecting the importance that Canada attaches to achieving a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty.

Like many other countries, Canada will continue to seek ways of enhancing the effectiveness of the First Committee, including the merging and biennializing of resolutions where possible. In Canada's view, the challenge of the 1990s will be to make the work of the First Committee and other UN disarmament fora mirror the rapid arms control and disarmament progress currently being realized between East and West.

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. This 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 releasing an annual report on its exports of military goods.

There is, with arms, a demand side and a supply side. Measures can be taken to restrict supplies to stabilizing and prudent levels. But demand must also be addressed, and that is why a regional approach to confidence-building is relevant to this issue too.

Finally, Mr. President, Canada believes that more can be done to ensure that the UN's unique capacity to provide peacekeeping forces for regional conflicts remains effective and efficient. I am pleased that Canada was able to help breathe new life into the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which has now provided the UN with new proposals to improve present peacekeeping activities and to plan for new ventures. However, more