

would threaten their security unless all of the remaining nuclear-weapon states immediately followed suit? If we are ever to have a comprehensive test ban, someone must take the first step, and the two super-powers are the ones who should take it.

If such an agreement were reached for a fixed trial period it could, at the end of that time, be reviewed by its adherents to determine whether it might be further extended or be transformed into a permanent agreement including all nuclear-weapon states. One thing, however, must be stressed. In proposing an interim agreement, we are not calling for an unverified moratorium. On the contrary, we envisage an agreement open to all states, containing measures to ensure first that its terms are fully honoured and second that any nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes do not confer weapons-related benefits.

We can welcome the achievement by the United States and the Soviet Union of their Threshold Test Ban Treaty of 1974 and their related agreement on peaceful nuclear explosions to the extent that they constitute mutual restraints and contain provisions for verification. But we consider these measures to be initial steps only. Agreements that permit the yield of individual explosions to remain as high as 150 kilotons are very modest indeed. In Canada's view, a much more far-reaching demonstration of the super-powers' determination to secure a CTB is required most urgently.

Although existing nuclear-weapon arsenals pose the most immediate threat to world security, all of us continue to be haunted by the danger that nuclear weapons will spread to more states. If more resolute efforts are not made to avert this danger, we shall have frittered away completely whatever chance there still may be of eliminating the threat of nuclear destruction.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty and its associated system of IAEA safeguards continue to be the basic instruments of the non-proliferation system and the most appropriate framework for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. One of the important tasks of this committee this year will be to assess the progress that has been made since the NPT Review Conference of May 1975. Canada is encouraged that some positive steps have been taken since the review conference, but we are convinced that much that should have been done in support of the non-proliferation objective has not been done. As we all know, the treaty's obligations apply to all of its parties -- to nuclear-weapon states as well as non-nuclear-weapon states.

While non-nuclear-weapon states parties undertook not to acquire

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