

## Forecast

*Arms control and disarmament activities involving Canada, February through May 1992*

**Ongoing:** CFE 1A Negotiation, Vienna

**Ongoing:** CFE 1 Joint Consultative Group meetings, Vienna

**Ongoing:** High Level Working Group (CFE signatories plus eight successors to former USSR with territory covered by CFE), Brussels

**Ongoing:** Open Skies negotiations, Vienna

**Ongoing:** OAS Working Group on Cooperation for Hemispheric Security, Washington, D.C.

**Ongoing until March 24:** CSBM Negotiations, Vienna

**Ongoing until March 27:** CD in session, Geneva

**March 11 - 13:** Ninth Annual Ottawa Verification Symposium — Multilateral Verification and the Post-Gulf Environment, Montebello, Quebec

**March 24 - July:** CSCE Main Follow-Up Meeting, Helsinki

**March 30 - April 10:** Meeting of UN Panel of Governmental Experts on the Arms Register, New York

**March 30 - April 10:** Meeting of Ad Hoc Group of Experts on BTWC Verification, Geneva

**April 8 - 10:** MTCR experts meeting, Rome

**April 20 - May 11:** UN Disarmament Commission, New York

**May 11 - June 26:** CD in session, Geneva

ventional armaments." We believe that it is necessary to begin a process aimed at discouraging and preventing excessive build-ups of conventional weapons. This is an area where this Committee can make a tangible, valuable contribution.

The Canadian delegation will be working earnestly with other delegations to secure a resolution on international arms transfers that establishes an international arms transfer register. Canada believes it is of the utmost importance to build on the current political momentum in favour of a register, and on the recommendation of the UN Group of Governmental Experts that a register be established "as soon as possible." As the Experts made clear in their excellent consensus report on "Ways and Means of Promoting Transparency in International Transfers of Conventional Arms," East-West experience with the benefits of enhanced transparency in building confidence, reducing tensions and ultimately in expanding the scope for negotiated agreements has been overwhelmingly positive. The Gulf War demonstrated the urgent need to extend transparency to the hitherto untouched field of conventional arms acquisition, to extend it on a global basis and to extend it immediately.

To fulfil its confidence-building potential, the register must be effective. It must be as broadly supported as possible. It must include both suppliers and recipients. It must present an accurate picture of arms accumulation. And it must be non-discriminatory to those who rely on arms imports to supply their defence needs. This is why Canada considers it essential that domestic arms procurement and arms holdings be reported to the register at an early stage.

The provision of data to the register will in itself be valuable, as it will allow Member States to demonstrate the non-destabilizing character of their activities. But confidence-building is not a fixed point, it is a process, and to encourage maximum development of that process, we believe the resolution should specify a forum wherein Member States can annually review the operation of the register and consult about the information provided to it. An annual meeting on the margins of the First Committee, for example, might serve as an appro-

priate forum for this purpose. This will help to ensure that the register remains effective and adapts to political circumstances. Consultation will enable Member States to develop clearer understandings of one another's views on such matters as how security is affected by arms acquisition. It may also facilitate improvement of national control mechanisms and help to prevent illicit arms trade.

Canada believes it is important to confine the register to conventional arms. This is not a question of being discriminatory. As Ambassador Donawaki of Japan noted, elaborate international mechanisms already exist, or are under negotiation, to constrain the acquisition of other types of weapons. In the case of weapons of mass destruction, our aim is not simply to promote transparency and to discourage excessive accumulations — our goal is the elimination of these weapons altogether.

In short, our first task is to foster a climate conducive to voluntary restraint and more responsible behaviour on the part of suppliers and recipients alike. Canada firmly believes that an international arms transfer register can make a significant contribution to this end. But over the longer term our goal must clearly be, and again I quote the Secretary-General, "to seek to develop fair criteria for multilateral control of arms transfers while at the same time meeting the legitimate security needs of states."

The construction of an enduring system of cooperative security in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter cannot be accomplished solely on a bilateral or a regional basis. We all must do our part. This Committee provides the opportunity for every UN Member State to play a concrete role in advancing specific disarmament objectives and in helping to shape the broader principles of international security. Virtually every one of the delegations that has spoken before me has stressed that the prospects for progress on the range of issues before us has never been better. In another context, Canada's foreign minister stated that there simply are no viable alternatives to practical, future-oriented results. Let us resolve to engage in a constructive, productive dialogue to that end. ■

of the DDA, we share Norway's hope that a way can be found during the deliberations of this Committee to satisfactorily resolve this issue.

In her statement to UNGA 46, Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mrs. Barbara McDougall, stressed the urgent need to address the proliferation of conventional weapons... Attention to this issue by the international community is long overdue. The Secretary-General in his 1991 report on the work of the UN again expressed his "grave concern over the problem of excessive and destabilizing transfers of con-