

CURRENT CANADIAN POSITION

Canada supports the principle of nuclear weapon-free zones wherever they are feasible and promote stability in an area. NWFZ proposals must meet certain requirements: they must have the support of countries in the area in question; they must promote regional and international stability.

Canada has never supported NWFZs in Central or Northern Europe or the Balkans because of its membership in NATO. The Government believes that NWFZs in these areas would be inconsistent with NATO policy which has a defensive policy including a nuclear deterrent. Similarly, the Government has never supported the declaration of Canada as a NWFZ for the same reasons. Canada does not possess nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons are not stationed on Canadian territory. Canada is a signatory of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (see Chapter 8, THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY) which requires it "not to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons...."

A number of resolutions relating to NWFZ were put forward at the forty-fifth meeting of the United Nations General Assembly. A resolution which called for a nuclear weapon-free zone in the Middle East¹ was adopted without a vote. The resolution, *inter alia*, calls on parties to take steps towards a NWFZ in the area, and pending the establishment of such a zone, to refrain from developing, producing, testing or otherwise acquiring nuclear weapons. Canada voted yes to a similar resolution which supported a nuclear weapon-free zone in South Asia.²

As it has done consistently in the past, Canada voted in favour of a resolution which called on France to ratify Protocol I of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which it signed in 1979. Canada also supported a resolution calling upon states to respect Africa as a nuclear weapon-free zone and condemning South Africa's pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability.³ However, Canada abstained on Part B of the same resolution which, in part, termed South Africa's acquisition of nuclear-weapon capability a threat to international peace and security. The resolution demanded that South Africa submit its nuclear facilities to inspection by the IAEA and requested that the Secretary-General closely monitor South Africa's nuclear development.

¹UN Resolution 45/52, 4 December 1990.

²UN Resolution 45/53, 4 December 1990.

³UN Resolution 45/56A, 4 December 1990.