

the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT PrepCom), the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, and the Conference on Disarmament (see below). During the 1990 session of the Conference on Disarmament, Canada presided over the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

g) *Various Study Groups*

Occasionally, the General Assembly calls for special studies to be conducted on various issues relating to arms control, disarmament and international conflict. Four Study Groups worked on various questions in 1989, namely the role of the UN in verification, nuclear weapons, effective and verifiable measures to allow the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East and, finally, promotion of transparency in the international transfer of conventional weapons. Mr. Fred Bild, Assistant Deputy Minister of External Affairs for Political and International Security Affairs, presided over the Study Group on Verification. Canada is not involved in the other three Study Groups.

h) *Conference on Disarmament (CD)*

The Conference on Disarmament is a forty-nation Committee separate from, but mandated by, the United Nations. Canada has been a member from its earliest beginnings. It is the world's only global multilateral forum for negotiation in the field of disarmament. It meets twice a year in Geneva to negotiate on the following issues: nuclear test-ban; cessation of the nuclear arms race and disarmament; prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters; chemical weapons; prevention of an arms race in outer space; effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons; and a comprehensive disarmament programme. The CD also creates Ad Hoc working groups and committees to consider various issues. Decisions at the CD are made by consensus.