

time between inspections to use highly fissionable materials to produce nuclear bombs.

- The most important but least acknowledged aspect of the proliferation problem concerns the accumulation, through civilian nuclear programmes, of materials which could be used to produce nuclear arms. It is questionable, for example, whether it will ever be possible to ensure that large quantities of plutonium cannot be diverted. Finally Mr. Leventhal recommended the creation of international storage centres for plutonium and used nuclear materials.

**Tariq Rauf**, a researcher at the Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament, said that the nuclear trade system imposed mutual obligations. Purchasers were required to submit to inspection and vendors to maintain open supply. However, vendors have been regularly accused of failing to fulfil this condition. In the future, they should uphold the provisions of NPT articles III and IV. Mr. Rauf then said that there was no "technological determinism" forcing countries to acquire nuclear weapons; instead, political and psychological factors were at work. The non-proliferation successes in South America were due to a regional approach to security problems and not to export controls. There was a contradiction between the prohibition on nuclear arms for the Third World and the right of five powers, fully acknowledged by NPT, to possess them. Mr. Rauf denied that the Iraq crisis had had very positive effects. It had not really been a United Nations war, and despite Resolution 687, potential proliferators would conclude from the whole affair that it was best to keep their nuclear programmes secret. He emphasized that the key to non-proliferation was a regional approach.

**Discussion:** Part of the discussion dealt with a regional approach to non-proliferation and a strategy based on the Security Council. One participant said to Mr. Rauf that, even if it were assumed that the intervention in the Gulf was a singular event, Resolution 687 still constituted an important precedent which might well have a dissuasive effect on potential proliferators in the future. When another participant emphasized the importance of a regional