

At UNSSOD I and UNSSOD II the public, through numerous non-governmental organizations, were a strong influence through participation at parallel meetings and events. The agenda of UNSSOD III includes a discussion of "measures to mobilize world public opinion in favour of disarmament." Time will be allocated for some representative non-governmental organizations to address the Session.

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It is becoming more apparent to me that new intellectual inroads are being made by the peace movement. One example is provided by Beyond War, a non-partisan educational movement, which recently conducted an unprecedented project involving American and Soviet scientists and scholars. The two teams, meeting in each other's countries, produced a book, Breakthrough: Emerging New Thinking, published jointly in English and Russian in the United States and the Soviet Union. Making the point that war is no longer an available means toward any desirable end, the book explores the prospects for peaceful resolution of international differences. In Canada, a new book How We Work for Peace is a wide-ranging description of Canadian Community activities, compiled by Christine Peringer of the Peace Research Institute, Dundas, whose long work for peace was recently cited by the U.N.

During the past few years, the peace movement, now numbering more than 2,000 local, regional, and national groups across Canada, has both widened its activity and deepened its grasp of the terrible complexities of the disarmament subject. A number of leading organisations -- embracing physicians, scientists, psychologists, educators, lawyers, among others, have projected a vibrant, intellectually-based concern for peace. When coupled with the significant research programs and seminars conducted by the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security, the Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament, and the Canadian Institute for Strategic Studies, it is clear that Canadian organizations have a great deal to contribute to UNSSOD III.

The imaginative work of peace groups, which is multiplying throughout the world, is slowly breaking down the mistrust and hatreds of the past. Competing ideologies cannot be quickly reconciled, any more than competing