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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE
FIFTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Working Group I

Agenda item 10

ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS
TENTH AND TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION

Working paper submitted by Canada

1. Canada regards agenda item 10 on the assessment of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the General Assembly at its tenth and twelfth special sessions as an essential component of the work of the current third special session devoted to disarmament.
2. While it would be folly to pursue a rigid and uncritical adherence to past approaches to arms control and disarmament which ignore changing global conditions and attitudes, it would be equally impossible to set rational policy objectives for the future without a realistic appraisal of past experience. In the Canadian view, if multilateral institutions and processes are to make a productive contribution to the arms control and disarmament process, they must reflect a balanced appreciation of both past and present. The task ahead of us includes the identification of areas where greater efforts are required. However, full recognition must also be given to progress that has been achieved and efforts must be directed to encouraging and enhancing future progress.
3. The decade of the 1980s can be divided into two distinct periods from an arms control and disarmament perspective. The first half was notable for the lack of progress in this area. Since 1985, however, the pace of developments has been very encouraging, even startling in some respects. The achievements of the past few months alone are comparable to the accomplishments over the entire preceding 15 years.