

Twenty-eight countries voted in favour of the resolution. Two (China and Libya) voted against and four (India, Pakistan, Vietnam and Syria) abstained.

On April 6, the depositary powers of the NPT (the United States, the United Kingdom and Russia) issued a joint statement urging North Korea to reconsider its withdrawal and to comply fully with its Treaty commitments and safeguards obligations. Mrs. McDougall expressed Canada's full support for the statement. "The NPT is a cornerstone of international security," she said. "It is entirely in North Korea's interest to remain as a member. Withdrawal from the NPT and refusal to permit international inspections will jeopardize stability in the Korean peninsula and in the entire region. If Pyongyang is truly interested in good international relations — as it claims — this is the wrong way to go about it."

Some 156 countries are parties to the NPT. North Korea is the only party to have withdrawn in the Treaty's 25-year history.

tanks, fighter aircraft, warships, armoured combat vehicles, large calibre artillery systems, attack helicopters, and missiles and missile launchers. In addition to providing information about transfers, Canada submitted a report on its holdings of these seven categories. Canada is a strong advocate of the register's early expansion to include military holdings and procurement through national production. The register was established as a result of a Canadian-sponsored resolution at the fall 1991 UN General Assembly.

Canada Funds Nuclear Safety

With a contribution of \$7.5 million, Canada is one of the first countries to fund the newly-created Nuclear Safety Account of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The multilateral fund is an initiative of the G7 aimed at improving the safety of nuclear facilities in the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe. The funding is provided under the ongoing \$30 million Canadian Nuclear Safety Initiative.

Middle East Arms Control

The Arms Control and Regional Security Working Group of the Middle East peace process will meet in Washington from May 18 to 20 after an eight-month hiatus. The Working Group will continue its discussion of arms control and confidence-building proposals and concepts as they pertain to the Middle East. The Canadian delegation will outline Canada's experience in the arms control field and encourage the states of the region to identify and pursue those concepts most applicable to their security needs.

START Stalled

At their summit meeting in Vancouver on April 3 and 4, US President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin agreed to direct efforts towards the entry into force of START I and the ratification of START II as soon as possible. START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) I, which was signed July 30, 1991 between the US and the USSR, limits each party to a maximum of 1,600 long-range nuclear launchers and 6,000 "accountable" warheads. START II, signed by the US and

Russia on January 3, 1993, calls for further reductions in strategic nuclear arsenals, to a level of between 3,000 and 3,500 warheads each by the year 2003. This represents a cut of roughly 70 per cent from current levels. START II's entry into force is dependent on that of START I.

In May 1992, in a document called the Lisbon Protocol, the four former Soviet republics that retain strategic nuclear weapons — Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Russia — became parties to START I in place of the USSR. Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine also committed themselves to adhere to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as non-nuclear-weapon states "in the shortest possible time." Since then, Belarus has voted to ratify START I and to accede to the NPT, Kazakhstan has ratified START I but has not yet acted on the NPT, and Ukraine has begun legislative debate on the two treaties but has not ratified or acceded to either. Russia has ratified START I. It has said, though, that the Treaty cannot enter into force until the other three former republics fulfil all of their Lisbon obligations.

The US ratified START I in October 1992. It has offered substantial financial and technical assistance towards easing the other parties' dismantlement and destruction burdens and has indicated that it is prepared to offer Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine certain security assurances. Ukraine, in particular, has expressed concern about the costs of nuclear disarmament and about its future security vis-à-vis Russia.

Canada, which welcomed the signing of both START I and START II, has emphasized that Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine must abide by their Lisbon Protocol commitments. Canada fully accepts the security and economic concerns of Ukraine, but does not accept any effort to use those concerns to postpone indefinitely or to preclude Ukraine confirming its non-nuclear-weapon state status.

Canada has repeatedly and at the highest levels advised the Ukrainian authorities that the full development of friendly relations between our two countries will depend on Ukraine fulfilling its nuclear weapon commitments.

In a speech in Moscow on February 4 to the Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Foreign Ministry, External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall observed that Rus-

Briefly Noted

CWC Implementation

Preparations for the establishment of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) continue, with a plenary meeting of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) Preparatory Commission in the Hague from April 19 to 23. The OPCW will oversee the destruction of all chemical warfare agents, precursors, munitions, stockpiles and most production facilities according to the terms of the CWC. The CWC was opened for signature in Paris on January 13. To date, some 140 countries, including Canada, have become signatories and two have ratified. The Convention will enter into force 180 days after it has been ratified by at least 65 countries, but no earlier than January 13, 1995.

Report to UN Arms Register

Canada submitted its first report to the UN arms register, covering calendar year 1992, by the April 30 deadline. The register requests information about exports and imports of seven major conventional weapons systems, namely main battle