

As is well known, Canada has taken a great interest in the subject of verification and has speeded its acceptance as a legitimate subject. We regard verification as a critical issue that must be satisfactorily addressed before there can be any hope of achieving progress in reaching meaningful agreements on important arms limitation and disarmament matters.

We are gratified that both resolutions 40/152 0 and 41/86 Q entitled: "Verification in all its aspects" initiated by Canada were adopted without a vote. In the case of the latter there were over 20 co-sponsors representing all groups. The broad co-sponsorship underlines the growing recognition within the world community that adequate measures of verification are essential for effective arms control and disarmament measures. Thirty governments have so far replied to the Secretary-General with their views on verification which illustrates the seriousness with which these governments view this question. We look forward to hearing from others.

Resolution 41/86 Q refers to the UNDC for consideration, the "subject of verification in all its aspects, including principles, provisions and techniques to promote the inclusion of adequate verification in arms limitation and disarmament agreements and the role of the United Nations and its Member States in the field of verification."

It is Canada's hope that the UNDC will succeed in drawing up a set of principles relating to verification as well as outlining a catalogue of provisions and techniques which will serve to guide negotiators in their efforts to conclude arms limitation and disarmament agreements. We realize that it may take more than one session of the UNDC to cover adequately all the ground on this subject. For its part, Canada is prepared to participate actively throughout the UNDC's discussions on this topic and will seek to facilitate the completion of its final report to the General Assembly. We do not look upon these discussions concerning verification as merely a rhetorical exercise. Rather, we look forward to a businesslike, frank exchange of views which, through a spirit of cooperation, will achieve a shared consensus that expands upon the basic principles concerning verification found in the Final Document of UNSSOD I. The UNDC is presented with an opportunity to draw-up some important guidelines on the issue of verification. Let us work together to meet this challenge.