

The Military Doctrine Seminar was a valuable exercise in openness but one into which we should not read too much. There remain considerable differences, even in understanding of concepts, between the WTO and NATO, which will not easily be bridged.

One suggestion, advanced by Canada, to develop a glossary of concepts in order to alleviate problems with terminology and translation, may be worth pursuing. As far as further meetings in this vein are concerned, the European

### *Seminar a valuable exercise in openness*

situation should perhaps stabilize to a further degree in order to make such gatherings worthwhile. At the very least, an initial CFE agreement should be successfully completed. Otherwise, there is the risk that this type of seminar will become a forum for polemical debate. ■

## **PTBT Amendment Conference**

A series of informal consultations at UN Headquarters has resulted in agreement on the dates and venue of the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) Amendment Conference. The Conference will be held in New York from January 7 to 18, 1991 and will be preceded by an organizational meeting, also in New York, from May 28 to June 8, 1990. The organizational meeting will deal with administrative matters, such as how the Conference will be financed. These dates have been unanimously accepted by states that are party to the Treaty.

The Conference is the result of an initiative by some 40 signatories to convert the PTBT, through an amendment, into a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). While the proposed amendment enjoys broad support among non-

aligned countries, Western countries do not support it.

Canada's opposition to the initiative is based on several concerns.

First, the original parties never intended the PTBT to be used for the purpose of achieving a CTBT. In Canada's view, attempting to do so could undermine the PTBT and result in a loss of confidence in existing disarmament processes, causing some countries to be skeptical of initiatives to negotiate future multilateral arms control treaties out of fear such treaties could be similarly misused.

Second, the declared opposition of some of the PTBT's depositary governments to converting the Treaty into a CTBT means that the initiative has no real chance of success, as each depositary government (namely the

### *Canada will attend Conference and participate in a constructive manner*

United States, the USSR and the United Kingdom) has a right of veto over any amendment. Furthermore, amendment of the PTBT would not place any nuclear testing limitations on those nuclear weapon states that are not party to the Treaty (i.e., France and China).

Despite its opposition to the amendment, Canada will attend the Conference and participate in its deliberations in a constructive manner, as announced by Peggy Mason, Ambassador for Disarmament, in her October 20, 1989 opening statement to the UN First Committee. Ms. Mason will lead the Canadian delegation to the Conference. While conditions are not conducive to concluding a CTBT there, it is Canada's hope that the results of the meeting will give impetus to ongoing efforts at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva

toward the realization of a CTBT, including, as a first step, the establishment of a mandate for an *ad hoc* committee on a nuclear test ban. ■

## **Arms Transfer Experts Group Meets**

The UN Group of Governmental Experts on International Arms Transfers held its first meeting from January 22 to 26 in New York.

The Group was established as a result of Resolution 43/75I, adopted by the UN General Assembly at its 1988 session, which requested the Secretary-General to carry out, with the assistance of governmental experts, a study on "ways and means of promoting transparency in international transfers of conventional arms on a universal and non-discriminatory basis." In preparing the study, the Group is to take into consideration the views of UN member states, as well as other relevant information, including information on the problem of illicit arms transfers. The Secretary-General will submit the results to the General Assembly in the fall of 1991.

The Group consists of experts from 19 countries. Canada is represented by Mr. Ernie Regehr, Research Associate and Lecturer at the University of Waterloo's Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies and Research Coordinator for Project Ploughshares. Mr. Regehr has written extensively about the international arms trade.

Discussion at the January meeting focused on determining the scope of the study and on defining key terms in the Group's mandate, such as "arms," "transfers" and "transparency." The Group's next meeting is scheduled to take place in New York in July. ■