

Consultative Group members visit United Nations

Ten members of the Consultative Group on Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs participated in an Orientation Programme at the First Committee of the General Assembly from November 6-12, 1988. This is the third year in which the Department of External Affairs has undertaken this programme. Its aim is to enable committed and interested members of the Consultative Group to be more fully involved and informed about the multi-faceted work for arms control and disarmament undertaken by Canada in the United Nations, and in particular the First Committee, which deals with security and international affairs.

The purpose of the programme was, therefore, twofold: first, to assist in the education and dissemination of information among those involved directly in the programme and indirectly to the organizations/communities with which the participants are associated; and second, to enhance and strengthen the Consultative Group on Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs.

The participants were briefed on the arms control and disarmament activities of the Permanent Mission of Canada and on First Committee operating procedures. They met separately with UN representatives of Romania, the USSR, the USA, the Netherlands and Singapore and with various UN Secretariat officials. Participants also attended a number of First Committee meetings, in order to see first-hand how business is conducted in that forum. The group was present to hear interventions and to observe the voting process. There were also opportunities to attend sessions of the General Assembly and to meet non-governmental representatives.

During the course of the week, a number of participants were struck by the lengthy and complex processes of the First Committee, and by the significant role which Canada appeared to play in arms control and disarmament. □



Members of the Consultative Group on a trip to New York. From left to right: Dr. Doug Ross, Mr. John Benesh, Ms. Carol Dixon, Ms. Shannon Selin, Mr. Nick Parker, Ms. Annie Bourret, Mr. Paul Bennett (Department of External Affairs), Ms. Leyla Raphaël, Ambassador Douglas Roche, Ms. Trudy Govier, Ms. Janis Alton and Dr. Paul Buteux.

Bilateral Arms Control and Disarmament Consultations Since September 1988

In accordance with the arms control and disarmament objectives of the Canadian Government as outlined in Prime Minister Mulroney's address to the Consultative Group on Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs on October 31, 1985, Canada conducts annual and ad hoc consultations with a variety of nations at the senior officials level. The following is a list of recent consultations:

DATE	COUNTRY	LOCATION
September 21, 1988	United States of America	Washington
November 14, 1988	Czechoslovakia	Prague
November 17-18, 1988	Federal Republic of Germany	Bonn
January 21, 1989	Japan	Tokyo
January 24-25, 1989	People's Republic of China	Peking