

The Canadian Delegation to the first Special Session made a significant contribution to its success. The Final Document which was produced by consensus is remarkable in setting out a common declaration of principles, outlining a programme of action and updating international machinery.

The international atmosphere since 1978 has not been propitious for the negotiation of arms control and disarmament agreements. But we have not stood still like a ring of arctic musk-oxen when threatened. Canada has made genuine efforts to help resolve international disputes. We have been generous in providing food and homes for refugees. And we have made continuing efforts to further arms control and disarmament negotiations.

The Canadian Delegation can and will take an active part in the work of the second Special Session. I am asking our Ambassador for Disarmament to visit Western Europe very shortly for 2 weeks of consultations. In Geneva he will meet not only with Western representatives but also important Eastern and Non-Aligned representatives. We have had official level talks with the Americans and I would remind the Committee that President Reagan made an important speech on disarmament last November 18.

As in 1978, I think that the Canadian Delegation should strive, in cooperation with other delegations, to chart the way ahead and give a further impetus to arms control and disarmament negotiations. We should not be unrealistic in our expectations from a conference which is expected to take decisions by consensus.

Canada has a number of contributions to make. It has idealism and ideas. It has a role of liaison. It has leverage on horizontal non-proliferation. It has expertise in seismic detection and chemical weapons verification. In these ways we can and will do our best to contribute to the success of UNSSOD II.