

the Voice of Women, and youth-oriented groups such as Pax Humana. These are women, like yourselves, who will speak in concert; not as simply another interest group, but as professors, pilots, engineers, diplomats, journalists and mothers -- people who look at the ever-increasing upward spiral of the arms race and fear for both our children's future and the fate of the planet.

Canadian women have been very active in recent years, both within Canada and in the wider international community, in articulating their desire for peace. In 1982, Canadian representatives worked closely with other delegations in drafting the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Cooperation which was subsequently adopted by the General Assembly. Also in 1982, on the occasion of the Second United Nations Special Session on Disarmament, Betty Peterson of the Voice of Women presented a petition to the Secretary-General of the U.N. signed by 125,000 Canadian women. In 1984, the Voice of Women and the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, as well as the Simone du Beauvoir Institute, were but two of the many women's groups which came forward with submissions to the Task Force on Arms Control and Disarmament.

At their annual meeting in August 1984, the Canadian Federation of University Women passed a resolution calling for a policy of support for peaceful efforts to reduce tensions and build trust among nations and to promote action for peace.

These examples are but a few, among many.

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The Canadian Government needs the creative assistance of the peace movement -- the organisations which represent the growing number of people across the country who believe they should have a role and voice in the future of their world. As the Canadian Federation of University Women has stated, "Everyone wants to avoid nuclear war, but solutions are elusive." This statement goes to the very heart of the problem today, a problem so complex that everyone needs to work to find solutions.

After spending the last few months at the United Nations and travelling to NATO headquarters in Brussels and the three European multilateral forums in Geneva, Vienna and Stockholm, where Canada is involved in discussions or negotiations related to arms control and disarmament, I have realized that the processes involved in moving the world away from the brink of nuclear disaster toward true disarmament are infuriatingly