

(Mr. Beesley, Canada)

When Mr. MacEachen spoke before the Committee on Disarmament last year, he emphasized four Canadian priorities:

Canada will press for progress toward the objective of a comprehensive nuclear-test ban; Canada will press for a more effective non-proliferation regime; Canada will press for a convention to prohibit chemical weapons; Canada will press for progress towards the objective of prohibiting all weapons for use in outer space.

These remain, in our considered view, the issues where there are prospects for genuine progress, and where progress can make a direct contribution to mutual security.

We are particularly pleased at the steps that have already been taken in the Chemical Weapons Working Group towards the objective of ensuring continued progress towards a chemical weapons convention. We would hope to see an early decision on the establishment of a working group on outer space which might bring about some movement in that area. It is therefore critical that the appropriate mechanisms are found for this body to advance matters forward. Horizontal and vertical nuclear proliferation is of primary concern to the world community and the forthcoming Third Review Conference on the Non-Proliferation Treaty will provide a focus for our efforts to restrain both. The realization of a multilateral comprehensive test-ban treaty remains one of the most difficult objectives of this Conference. Canada will continue to pursue realistic measures towards such a treaty. We shall continue to make a contribution within the seismic experts group and to work on other verification aspects.

Throughout our discussions, I hope we shall bring our imagination to bear on one of the most important aims of arms control and disarmament negotiations, namely, to deal not only with existing weapons systems but to gear down and eventually to halt the momentum of new technology.

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