

"As a result of the persistent efforts of the international community to enhance international security through arms limitation and disarmament measures we are now on a threshold of important developments", declared Mr. R. Harry Jay, Canada's Representative to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva. He was speaking today in the United Nations First Committee debate on disarmament at UN headquarters in New York.

"Because it relates to fundamental questions of nations' perceptions of their security interests, arms control and disarmament is a difficult uphill task and the past has been fraught with frustration. There are, however, grave and pressing dangers inherent in a failure to make real progress. Moreover, other more constructive demands on the resources of all of us make clear that our efforts must be pursued with renewed determination".

Ambassador Jay noted that of all the armaments problems, those presented by nuclear weapons were the most worrying and urgent. In terms of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the arsenals of the superpowers, the ongoing efforts of the USA and the USSR to reach agreement on a series of measures to curtail and then to reverse the strategic confrontation were of vital importance. These bilateral negotiations, Ambassador Jay emphasized, must as their ultimate objective, aim at curbing the technological arms race as well as reducing the number of nuclear weapons.

Because the world must come to terms with a growing energy shortage, and because many countries are looking to nuclear energy as a solution, Ambassador Jay argued, the pressing need to improve the international non-proliferation system, to strengthen safeguards, to implement the Non-Proliferation Treaty more effectively and to re-examine the risks inherent in various nuclear cycles and processes was all the more important. He said that Canada had been prepared to adopt rigorous measures at the national level but this enterprise could only be pursued effectively through a collective international approach involving nuclear weapon and non-nuclear weapon, industrialized and developing countries, nuclear suppliers and importers, all of whom shared a common interest in avoiding the dangers inherent in the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In the name of Canada Ambassador Jay welcomed heartily the fact that a comprehensive test ban had now come under active negotiation by three of the major nuclear weapon powers. He looked to these tripartite negotiations to clear away the present log