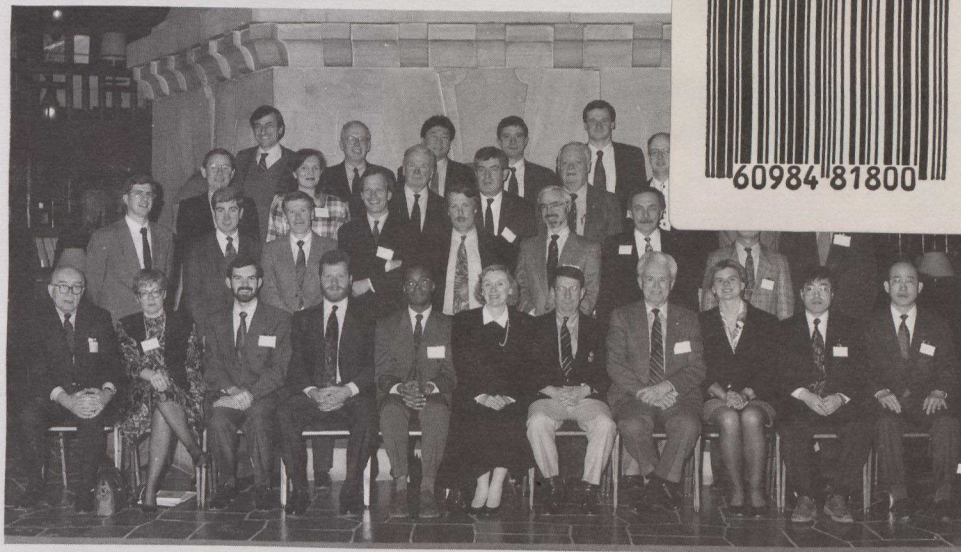# Symposium Looks at Converging Roles of Verification, Confidence-Building and Peacekeeping

Governmental and academic experts from eight countries took part in the Tenth Annual Ottawa Verification Symposium, entitled "Proliferation and International Security: Converging Roles of Verification, Confidence-Building and Peacekeeping," held in Montebello, Quebec, from February 24 to 27. A key theme of discussion was the future involvement of the United Nations in these fields, a topic of growing interest in view of the Secretary-General's reports on *An Agenda for Peace* (UN Document A/47/277) and *New Dimensions of Arms Regulation and Disarmament in the Post-Cold War Era* (UN Document A/C.1/47/7).

Since the demise of the Cold War, states have been demonstrating a greater willingness to consider multilateral approaches to security issues, as opposed to national or bilateral approaches. As states come to recognize the advantages of multilateral approaches — including cost-effectiveness — they are increasingly likely to assign verification, confidence-building and peacekeeping roles to international organizations and regional bodies. This is already happening to some extent in the United Nations Special Commission on

Participants at the Tenth Annual Ottawa Verification Symposium.

Iraq (UNSCOM), the CSCE and other organizations.

A heightened role for international bodies in these areas and related security fields is consistent with long-held Canadian policy. Symposium participants considered ways in which Canada and other states can facilitate this process, as well as

the growing integration of verification, confidence-building and peacekeeping.

The Symposium was sponsored by EAITC's Verification Research Program and organized by York University's Centre for International and Strategic Studies. The latter will publish the proceedings in the near future. ■

Fostering Democracy and Security in the Ex-Warsaw Pact: The North Atlantic Cooperation Council

NATO has consistently encouraged the development of democracy in the countries of the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe.

To foster a sense of security and confidence and to make democratic change irrevocable, NATO first sought to build a new relationship with its former adversaries by extending its hand of friendship and establishing regular diplomatic liaison and partnership, including high level visits and military contacts. Then, at the Rome Summit in November 1991, NATO leaders agreed to establish NACC — the North Atlantic Cooperation Council — as a forum for developing "a more institutional relationship of consultation and cooperation on political issues."

NACC membership now totals 38 (in-

cluding all of the countries of the former Soviet Union, the Warsaw Pact and Albania). Finland attends ministerial meetings as an observer.

NATO allies and the NACC cooperation partners meet regularly at expanded sessions of virtually all of the established NATO committees, including the Political, Economic and Military Committees. Foreign ministers attend ministerial sessions of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and defence ministers meet in the Group on Defence Matters. In addition, a NATO embassy in each cooperation country serves as the NATO information office. The Canadian Embassy in Warsaw, for example, is responsible for NATO liaison with Poland.

In December 1992, NACC ministers ap-

proved an expanded program of consultation and cooperation. The 1993 Work Plan features activities on a wide range of issues including peacekeeping, defence planning, conceptual approaches to arms control, democratic concepts of civilian-military relations, civil-military coordination of air-traffic management, the conversion of defence production to civilian purposes and enhanced participation in NATO's "Third Dimension" in scientific and environmental programs.

In addition, NACC ministers discussed contentious security issues such as withdrawal of Soviet troops from the Baltic states, control of Russian and Ukrainian nuclear weapons, and the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Peacekeeping and the situation in the former Yugoslavia