

manoeuvres, an Open Skies regime, and military data exchanges. Other regions of the world -- the Middle East, Latin America -- might also benefit from a regional approach to confidence-building.

One of the key elements of confidence-building is verification. Verification provides proof. And proof triggers trust. That is why Canada co-sponsored the resolution passed by the General Assembly calling for an Experts' Study on Verification to be conducted by the Secretary General. A Canadian chaired this study and we will take the lead at this Assembly in proposing a Resolution which will call on the UN to:

- promote increased dialogue between diplomats and experts on verification issues;
- establish a UN data bank of verification research material;
- support and expand where appropriate the powers of the Secretary General to engage in fact-finding missions as they relate to the possible violation of existing arms control agreements.

Mr. President, there is one persistent security problem above all others which the international community has failed to address satisfactorily. And that is the problem of proliferation - proliferation of weapons of mass-destruction and their means of delivery, as well as conventional weapons which have become so destructive.

We all recognize that arms do not cause conflicts. But we must also recognize that arms can make conflict more likely and that they make that conflict more destructive when it occurs.

The progress between the superpowers on the reduction of their stockpiles of nuclear weapons is welcome, as is the progress made to date in ensuring a successful conclusion to the conventional force reduction talks currently underway in Vienna. Those negotiations can and must succeed.

But to reduce capabilities and enhance confidence in one region and with some weapons is only part of the challenge. There is much more to be done.

In the area of nuclear proliferation, the just concluded Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, despite consensus on almost all issues, was unable to agree on a concluding document. That failure should alert us all to the dangerous prospect of unravelling of this vital international treaty. Canada believes that movement is needed on all sides. We welcome the joint American and Soviet commitment to a step-by-step approach to further restrictions on nuclear testing. We believe that commitment should be followed up immediately, with the final goal being a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing.