

Special Session on Disarmament which have as yet received little attention.

The first is paragraph 81 on conventional disarmament. Useful discussions on conventional weapons took place in the United Nations Disarmament Commission last spring. This should be just the beginning of our efforts to show balanced progress in the field of arms control. The recent successful conclusion of the UN Weapons Conference is a contribution to the development and elaboration of international humanitarian law.

The second is paragraph 80. It says, "To prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held." The fact is that there already is an incipient arms competition in outer space. The continuation of this competition could well have a destabilizing effect on the present balance of weaponry and it is consequently Canada's view that efforts should be intensified to reach an international agreement on this matter.

The third subject is the central issue of any meaningful arms-control agreement. It is verification. Point 9 of the permanent framework of the agenda of the Committee on Disarmament recognizes the necessity of adequate verification as a vital ingredient in negotiations. To encourage understanding of the complexities of verification, Canada tabled in the Committee last June a compendium of arms-control verification proposals. A second paper quantifying some aspects of this research was tabled more recently. A conceptual paper is in preparation, as is an updated version of the compendium. While these papers may help to develop an understanding of the basic elements in verification, there is also a need for papers on the verification problems of particular agreements under negotiation.

We believe that recent events, and the atmosphere that has consequently been created, are strong arguments in favour of verification as an integral part of arms-control agreements. There is therefore all the more reason to press ahead.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion I wish to assure members of this Committee of the determination of the Canadian government to make a sustained effort to contribute to the process of arms control and disarmament. The unsettling events which have transpired since this Committee last met, and the consequent deterioration of the international climate, have convinced us that even greater efforts must be made. In this regard, we should recall that the process of arms control and disarmament is not an end in itself, but rather a means to an end. The end, of course, is to secure the peace and stability of this planet, so that we might deal without distraction with the array of other vital problems which confront us. In all these respects, Canada remains deeply committed.

Verification  
vital

Disarmament  
means to an  
end