

General Assembly only two years ago designated this decade as the United Nations Disarmament Decade. The Canadian delegation therefore believes that sponsorship of a world disarmament conference should clearly be by this world body.

TOTAL PARTICIPATION

If it were so desired, appropriate provision could be made while the conference is being prepared, not only for non-member states but also for non-governmental organizations, private institutions, and even individuals with a demonstrated interest in disarmament to make their contribution to the conference.

We would hope, however, that the problem of finding a satisfactory formula for attendance at such a conference would not become a bone of contention but rather that the proposal to hold a world disarmament conference would serve as a vehicle for consensus within the UN family. Canada has been among those who have been active, both in Geneva and in New York, in urging the participation of all principal military powers in the disarmament effort. At this time, when the issue of the nuclear arms race and the mass destruction weapons which risk catastrophic effects for the peoples of the world warrant priority consideration, it is especially appropriate and important that the People's Republic of China as well as France should join the other nuclear powers in seeking to allay the concerns of mankind about the nuclear arms race and the dangers of its escalation.

It would be essential for the success of any world disarmament conference that the views of these principal military powers should be taken fully into account and we would therefore hope that any resolution which is adopted on the basis of draft Resolution A/L631 of September 28 would reflect a broad consensus and would specifically provide for ongoing consultations between now and the time when a decision is taken at the UN General Assembly about convening a conference.

The convening of a new conference on a world basis should not serve as a pretext or excuse to hold-up or confuse the efforts already under way. In particular we, who have been negotiating on disarmament questions in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva, appreciate the value of this negotiating body and hope that ways will be found soon to associate the representatives of the People's Republic of China with the disarmament negotiating process. To this end, we hope that thorough consultations and preparations would be carried through to ensure that if and when a world disarmament conference meets, it contributes to progress in disarmament rather than to confusing efforts already under way.

To the degree that the proposal for a world disarmament conference meets the above criteria, and can be effective in focusing world opinion on the

overriding importance of disarmament in an age of mass destruction weapons, Canada can be counted upon to support it. No issue commands higher priority than measures concerned with containing and arresting the arms race, particularly in nuclear weapons.

RULES FOR CHEMISTRY SETS

New regulations were announced recently by Mr. Ron Basford, Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, governing the advertising, sale and importation of chemistry sets. Specific labelling requirements will ensure that directions for the safe use of the chemicals are included with the sets, and that all chemicals will be named on the labels. Sets containing certain chemicals will also include a statement warning of the dangers of misuse.

The strong possibility that experimentally-minded children indiscriminately mix chemicals has been recognized in the regulations, the Minister noted, through the banning from chemistry sets of a specified list of potentially dangerous chemicals such as sulphuric acid.

Mr. Basford said that the regulations had been designed for maximum safety provided that only the materials in the sets are used and that instructions are followed to the letter. He cautioned that parents should maintain general supervision in the use of chemistry sets and pay particular attention that additional chemicals are not introduced into the use of these sets.

These regulations are an extension of the Hazardous Products (Toys) Regulations that have been in effect since November 1970.

FEDERAL GRANT FOR UBC HOSPITAL

A contribution of \$24,389,533 from the Federal Government's Health Resources Fund for the construction of a teaching hospital for the University of British Columbia has been approved.

The 350-bed building will be part of the University's Health Sciences Centre. Training and research facilities will be provided for 450 medical students and 600 nursing students. In addition, an estimated 3,000 students of allied health professions will receive part of their training in the university hospital. The allied health professions include rehabilitation, dentistry and dental hygiene, pharmacy, social work, psychology, home economics and physical education.

A total of \$36,272,788 has been contributed to the University of British Columbia for the Health Sciences Centre since the establishment of the Health Resources fund in 1966. The fund provides assistance in meeting capital costs of constructing, renovating and equipping health-training and research facilities.