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NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

Assurance that Canada intended to continue its record of support for the United Nations was given on April 30 by Mr. Mitchell Sharp, in his first appearance at the United Nations General Assembly as Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Speaking on the draft Non-Proliferation Treaty, Mr. Sharp said that Canada's support for the principles of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons had never wavered and that the "overwhelming majorities" by which non-proliferation resolutions had been passed testified that "virtually all members of the Assembly" shared Canada's view:

The Minister continued in the following words:

...It remains to translate that agreement in principle into generally acceptable terms for a binding international treaty. The draft before us is intended to serve that end. It seeks to achieve two fundamental purposes.

The first — and perhaps by far the most important — is to reduce the sense of insecurity which aggravates international tensions, accelerates the spiralling arms race and increases the risk of nuclear war. I draw your attention to the study published last October by the Secretary-General:

"The mounting concern about the spread and development of nuclear weapons is a clear manifestation of the fear which now besets the world. Additional nuclear powers accentuating regional tensions could only add to the complexity of the problem of assuring peace. Furthermore, it is impossible to deny that the danger of nuclear war breaking out through accident or miscalculation becomes greater the larger the number of countries which deploy such weapons, and the larger the stockpiles and the more diversified the weapons they hold. If a nuclear

conflict were to erupt, however it started, not a single state could feel itself secure."

That is why states without nuclear weapons should forego their right to acquire or develop them. That is also why those non-nuclear states who are asked to accept this self-denying ordinance have a legitimate right to expect tangible assurance that they will not become the victims of nuclear attack. Otherwise they cannot be expected to have that enhanced feeling of security which is the object of this enterprise.

NON-NUCLEAR STATES ASSURED

Hence the significance of the statements made in Geneva by the United States, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom, who have reaffirmed that they will introduce a resolution in the Security Council under which they would give assurances of assistance, either through the United Nations or unilaterally, to any party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty not possessing nuclear weapons, if that state were the victim of an act or threat of aggression in which weapons were used.

This affirmation has been belittled by some as having little meaning. And yet, given the existence

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