

the destructive nature of modern weapons. And it is more promising because the absence of East-West tension now frees countries and regions to pursue solutions to local problems on local terms.

Security is more than the absence of war; it is the presence of peace. That requires a shared sense on each side that the survival of the other is in its best interest. This means building trust and confidence.

Canada believes that a regional approach to confidence-building has much to offer. That approach can involve a variety of measures: dialogue itself designed to exchange perspectives and increase understanding; greater transparency in terms of military capacity; agreements to inform other members in the region of activities they might consider threatening in the absence of warning; and, eventually, institutions and processes of conflict resolution and crisis prevention.

Confidence-building is not a blueprint or a grand solution. It does not prejudice outcomes or impose solutions. It is not rigid. It is what this organization has always done best. It is

step-by-step. It is functional. It is flexible.

The success of such an approach in Europe is undeniable. Obviously, specific measures taken in Europe may not apply to other regions. Those regions will require approaches tailored to their nature and requirements. But the fundamental principles of confidence-building apply.

It is for this reason that, in addition to proposing new initiatives for the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Canada has suggested that the countries of the North Pacific region may benefit from similar approaches to confidence-building. Those might include advance notification of military 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. This 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 super-powers on the reduction of their stock-piles 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 immedi-

## Canada Presents Report to UN

In an address to the UN General Assembly in September 1989, Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark promised that Canada would submit to the UN the results of its research into the utility of overhead remote-sensing technology for peacekeeping. On May 21, Canada's Ambassador to the UN, Mr. Yves Fortier, presented to the UN Secretary-General the results of the study entitled "Overhead Remote Sensing for United Nations Peacekeeping." The report and an accompanying slide briefing was also presented to member and observer states of the UN's Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (known as the Committee of 34).

The report focuses on the potential of using commercially-available data

from airborne and spaceborne sources to increase the relative efficiency and effectiveness of UN peacekeepers. It, and the slides, were prepared under contract with the Verification Research Unit of EAITC by a leading Canadian remote sensing company, Intera Technologies Ltd.

Ambassador Fortier also presented the Secretary-General with a scroll listing the 16 verification principles. These principles were developed by a working group under Canadian chairmanship during the 1987 and 1988 sessions of the UNDC. They were subsequently adopted by consensus in the General Assembly in December 1988. The scroll was developed to heighten awareness in Canada of the UN's involvement in verification.