



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

CANADA

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 68/11: CANADA AND THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

Excerpts from a Statement by Lieutenant-General
E.L.M. Burns, Permanent Representative of Canada
to the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee,
Geneva, March 13, 1968.

The Canadian delegation welcomes the latest revisions included in the draft Non-Proliferation Treaty which was submitted on Monday March 11. These revisions constitute a further step in the elaboration of a Treaty which should be both effective and widely acceptable. Anyone who has followed the course of negotiations in the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee during the past two years and studied the successive draft treaties should be convinced of the constructive results obtained through the efforts of all delegations.

We shall very soon be moving on to the United Nations General Assembly for what will probably be the last round of negotiations, in which the Treaty will take on its final form. The Canadian delegation would respectfully suggest that all members of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament have a responsibility to do all in their power to make the General Assembly debate as constructive, relevant and informed as possible....

The Canadian Government is in general agreement with the provisions of the Treaty in its latest revision and welcomes the last changes which have been incorporated.

We find the content and phrasing of the preamble satisfactory, and in particular we ascribe importance to the provisions that assert support for research on and development of the instrumented means of carrying out safeguards procedures in the IAEA system, to the provisions that affirm the principle that states not possessing nuclear weapons should receive the benefits of all peaceful applications of nuclear technology, including the uses of nuclear explosive devices for peaceful purposes, and to those provisions which refer to steps to halt the arms race and lead to nuclear disarmament. We are pleased to see the inclusion in the present draft of the paragraph suggested by the delegation of Sweden reaffirming the determination expressed in the Moscow limited test-ban treaty to achieve a cessation of all nuclear weapon testing.

As I mentioned in earlier statements, Canada finds that Articles I and II of the Treaty, often referred to as its core, adequately provide for preventing states other than the existing nuclear powers from acquiring nuclear weapons. That, of course, is the main purpose of the Treaty. In that connection, we have