

a solid experience base for multilateral verification. In addition to on-site inspections, UNSCOM has pioneered the use of overhead imagery as a supporting tool. Such imagery has been used to reinforce the thoroughness and the objectivity of the inspection program. Helicopter imagery provides a time-series photographic record of sites that will need to be monitored under plans for ongoing monitoring and verification. Additional innovations in the application of technologies using sensors such as gamma radiation detection, forward-looking infrared radar and ground penetrating radar add a new dimension to the development of multilateral verification techniques.

The attempt by UNSCOM to implement a long-term monitoring of resolution-relevant activities in Iraq has been hampered by Iraq's persistent refusal to acknowledge its obligation under Resolution 715 (Iraq has recognized only Resolution 687). UNSCOM has thus attempted to move the process ahead by developing an interim monitoring capability, acting under the terms of the relevant resolution. The prime objectives include the continuing collection of data on missile programs in Iraq and the deterrence of covert programs in prohibited missile systems. Experience gained will be useful in implementing long-term monitoring once Iraq acknowledges its obligations.

Recent talks in New York between senior Iraqi ministers and UNSCOM officials suggest that a new period of cooperation may be at hand. Newspaper reports in late November stated that Iraq has now decided "to accept the obligations" (concerning mandatory long-term monitoring) as stated in Resolution 715. Rolf Ekéus, UNSCOM's Executive Chairman, was quoted as acknowledging that the Iraqi statement could constitute a "major breakthrough."

As a result, it could be possible to draft a public statement that spells out what Iraq might still do to be in full compliance. Presumably, a long-term monitoring and verification program would have to be in place for some months before UNSCOM and the IAEA would be prepared to confirm to the Security Council that Iraq was in full compliance with the provisions of applicable resolutions. Such a confirmation would be required to recommend an end to the sanctions presently being enforced against Iraq. ■

Successful First Committee

The 48th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 48) met in New York from September to December. Canada's priorities in the First Committee, which considers arms control and disarmament issues, were to confirm and strengthen existing global non-proliferation instruments such as the NPT, the CWC and the BTWC, and to support negotiations for a CTBT in the CD. Canada played an active role in promoting these objectives, with largely successful results. Canada was also the lead sponsor of a verification resolution and of a resolution dealing with the prohibition of the production of fissionable material.

Virtually all western states called for the indefinite extension of the NPT and the negotiation of a CTBT. Many delegations chastised China for its recent nuclear test. China in turn stated that it supports a total test ban within the framework of a complete prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons. Many countries called for a firm international response towards North Korea, which is not complying fully with its IAEA safeguards obligations. There was also strong support for effective implementation, on a universal basis, of the UN Arms Register.

Verification

Canada was successful in having its resolution on verification passed by a vote of 127 in favour, 0 against and 19 abstentions (EC, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway and the US). The resolution calls for a UN Group of Experts study on the role of the UN in the field of verification.

The findings of a Canadian-chaired 1990 UN study on the subject were based on research conducted in the late 1980s, before the end of the Cold War. There has been a sea change in the international environment since that time, and the new study will examine the impact of these changes on verification and the role of the UN therein. Particular attention is to be paid to the ways verification can facilitate UN activities with respect to confidence-building, conflict management and disarmament. The study group is also asked to:

- explore the further development of guidelines and principles for UN involvement in verification; and
- review the conclusions of the 1990 Experts Group with particular attention to approaches for integrating verification information by the UN.

Cut-off

Canada was pleased to take the lead on the resolution entitled "Prohibition on the Production of Fissionable Material for Nuclear Weapons or Other Nuclear Explosive Devices." The resolution, which was adopted by consensus, calls for a treaty that would cut off the production of such fissionable material and for the treaty to be negotiated in an appropriate international forum.

CTBT

The First Committee adopted by consensus a decision supporting the commencement of negotiations in the CD on the comprehensive banning of nuclear tests. This was the first time in the First Committee's consideration of the issue that consensus was reached.

CWC

The Netherlands, as lead sponsor, was not successful in having this traditional consensus resolution passed by the General Assembly. Proposed Iranian amendments to what should have been a procedural matter led the resolution to be withdrawn. This was unfortunate as over 150 states have now become signatories to the landmark CWC.

Transparency in Armaments

This resolution was passed by consensus. A group of governmental experts will meet in 1994 to prepare a report on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development. Canada fully supports this process and on many occasions has called for the