

I make this appeal today, Madame President, because it offers the only avenue for a renewed United Nations, with a more streamlined and effective structure, where member nations will seek solutions rather than empty propaganda victories, a United Nations that will be more truly representative of the aspirations of mankind. Such a revitalized organization would be better able to come to grips with its great dual task -- to keep the peace and to improve the conditions of life on earth.

To keep the peace. This is the primary purpose of the United Nations.

The supreme challenge is to find something better than the balance of mutual fear and deterrence on which the present uneasy structure of global security rests. The new weapons now in the final stages of development in the Soviet Union and the United States give a new urgency to this task. Unless the world seizes this moment to stop the upward spiral in arms-race technology, we run a very real risk of a breakdown in the equilibrium of deterrence that now provides what security we have.

I should like to say here, Madame President, that Canada regards the strategic arms limitations talks that the U.S.S.R. and the United States have agreed to hold as the most significant development in recent years. We urge both parties to begin at once. If the talks are entered upon in good faith, with goodwill and without delay, they could prove to be a turning-point in world history.

At the last session of the General Assembly, Canada joined most members of the United Nations in welcoming the achievement of a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. We were the first nation with nuclear capacity to ratify this treaty. What the treaty contains is important enough, but its promises are at least equally significant. None of the provisions of the NPT is more vital than Article VI, in which all parties to the treaty -- and this applies particularly to the nuclear powers -- agree "to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear-arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament".

Should we be discouraged by the slow rate of progress or by the fact that, although some 90 countries signed the non-proliferation treaty, only 17 have deposited the necessary instruments of ratification? I think not. One cannot afford to be discouraged when the survival of mankind itself is at stake. We look forward to this treaty coming into force this year, and we urge its early ratification by all governments that have not yet done so.

One of the most encouraging events in the field of arms control in recent days has been the coming into force of the treaty creating the Latin-American Nuclear-Free Zone, and Canada wishes to express its congratulations to the Latin American countries responsible for this very positive step.

Of all the arms-control issues that have tried the patience of the world in recent years, the most onerous has been the effort to conclude a comprehensive test ban to supplement the 1963 prohibition of nuclear tests in the atmosphere, under water and in outer space. The endless argument is continuing - over whether "on-site" inspection is necessary in order to verify violations of an agreement to prohibit underground tests or whether national means of seismological