

In addition to our requirements, and subject to security and resource limitations, we want to make our nuclear power generating system available to other countries. However, until more adequate internationally agreed measures are instituted, Canada intends to satisfy itself that any country using Canadian supplied nuclear technology or material will be subject to binding obligations that the technology or material will not be used in the fabrication of nuclear explosive devices for whatever purpose. To this end Canada attaches special importance to the role of nuclear safeguards applied by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The need for truly effective anti-proliferation measures fully accepted and applied by the international community is pressing. The nuclear technology involved is no longer beyond the reach of a growing number of countries. The costs of developing a nuclear explosive device are no longer prohibitive. The principal problem is to obtain the necessary materials. Every day more and more of these materials are being developed throughout the world and the problem of controlling their movement, as well as their use, is becoming proportionately greater.

#### Nuclear chain reaction

The phenomenon of proliferation is, in political terms, something like a nuclear chain reaction. With the suc-

cessful explosion of a nuclear device by each newcomer to the ranks of the nuclear powers, the greater grows the desire of other countries "to go nuclear". In a world without truly effective safeguards they feel their national existence threatened. If each new nuclear-weapon state prompted its neighbour to follow its example all concerned would find their security quickly undermined.

We believe that it is the very existence of nuclear explosive devices that presents the hazard to humanity and it increases in proportion to the number of countries possessing them. One need make no distinctions in terms of what countries possess such devices. The danger lies as much in the number of countries that have them as in the policies of the possessors.

If we are to avoid a nuclear catastrophe we must accept that there are practical limits to the application of the principle of non-discrimination. My Government urges the international community to accept the obligation not to contribute to the uncontrolled spread of nuclear explosive capability, and the safeguards required to ensure compliance with that obligation.

#### International supervision needed

Our aim is to seek broadly international measures which will halt both the multiplication and the wider dissemination of nuclear weapons, and which will check the spread of the technology of nuclear explosive devices and the

further development of that technology as applied to nuclear weapons. The Non-Proliferation Treaty, the efforts to limit strategic arms, and the achievement of a comprehensive test ban are designed to serve these objectives. As for the halting of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, all states should undertake not to transfer nuclear technology or materials except under international supervision aimed at ensuring that the transfer is not used for fabricating nuclear explosive devices. In addition, all states should place their inventories of nuclear fissile material they hold for peaceful purposes under international supervision. Nuclear weapon states should, as a first step towards this objective, place their peaceful nuclear facilities under this supervision and seek to halt their production of fissile material for weapons purposes. International supervision of fissile material is the best available means for the international community to be assured of each state's peaceful intentions.

The nuclear threat to our security may be dramatic and awe-inspiring but we cannot neglect the more prosaic but lethal threat from the use of conventional force.

#### Peace-keeping

One of the few useful tools which we have developed so far to deal with this problem is peace-keeping by a United Nations sponsored force. Canada has responded positively to United Nations requests and has been engaged in virtually all of the United Nations peace-keeping operations to date. This has not been without cost in lives of Canadians and of those from the forces of the other participating countries.

Our interest is therefore obvious. There is no doubt in my mind that an overwhelming majority of Canadians continue to accept the importance and the usefulness of a United Nations peacekeeping role. But I would be less than candid if I did not admit that Canadians are today less inclined to accept in an unquestioning way the burdens of participation. Their concern springs mainly from the fact that peacekeeping endeavours often seem to do no more than perpetuate an uneasy *status quo*.

If United Nations' peacekeeping activity is to be fully effective it must be accompanied by a parallel effort on the

#### Canadian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly

Allan J. MacEachen, is Chairman of the Canadian delegation to the twenty-ninth regular session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Other members of the delegation are:

Dr. S.F. Rae, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, New York; Senator H.W. Hays; R.D.G. Stanbury, Member of Parliament; M. Prud'homme, Member of Parliament; Mrs. M. Masson; W.H. Barton, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva and to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament; N.H.F. Berlis, Ambassador and

Representative of Canada to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations; R. Elliott, Ambassador of Canada to Algeria; E.G. Lee, Legal Adviser, Department of External Affairs.

Special advisers are: J.E.G. Hardy, Director-General, Bureau of United Nations Affairs, Department of External Affairs; J.A. Beesley, Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations Development Organization and to the International Atomic Energy Agency; S.A. Freifeld, Ambassador of Canada to Colombia; and G.F. Bruce, Secretary-General of the delegation.