

Writing in Disarmament Times, Pieter van Rossem notes that "two factors involved in the relationship between disarmament and development ended up virtually ignored in the Final Document: arms trade and conversion."⁷² Simon Rosenblum of Project Ploughshares criticized the conference for failing to analyze Third World development, failing to break new ground "regarding the issues pertaining to military threats to security," and in reference to the Final Document said, "The hungry of this planet will not sleep easily on such hollow promises."⁷³

The NGOs were unhappy that some Western nations were intent on blocking any steps toward the creation of an international fund for the transfer of disarmament savings to development. Because the conference work was based on the need for consensus for a final document, with Canada strongly promoting the consensus approach, these Western nations had an effective veto over such steps.

Like Mexico, the NGOs were dismayed at the progressive weakening of the Final Document through its various drafts. The NGOs even proposed their own amendments to the Final Document in order to revive references to a fund, an arms trade and military budgets international register, progress in conversion of the arms industry to civilian activities, the role of international law, non-provocative defence and general, rather than national, security.

The Canadian NGOs had some special criticisms of the Canadian government's approach to the conference. Canada, they claim, took "the lowest common denominator" approach in efforts to reach consensus and therefore failed to promote the armament-underdevelopment relationship and the concrete measures that should be taken to advance disarmament and development. Sweden had completed a major two-volume study on the conversion of the arms industry to civilian production. Canada had done nothing. Canada, potentially in a good position to do so, did nothing to advocate control of the interna-

⁷² Pieter van Rossem, "Invisible Issues at ICRDD: Arms Trade and Conversion," Disarmament Times, 18 September 1987, Vol. X, No.5., p.2.

⁷³ Simon Rosenblum, "Disarmament and Development at the United Nations," Ploughshares Monitor, December 1987, Vol. VIII, No.4., p.20.