

Disarmament

Because this is the simple truth, no problem is of greater concern to this Assembly than disarmament, but equally no subject has more frustrated our efforts and disappointed our peoples. Next year's Special Session can provide us with an opportunity to move towards real disarmament. Canada co-sponsored the resolution calling for the session and we will put forward specific proposals to make it a success.

But we cannot wait for the Special Session. The need is immediate to improve and strengthen the international non-proliferation system, implement the non-proliferation treaty more effectively, and re-examine the risks and benefits in various nuclear cycles and processes.

If anything is more frightening than the prospect of rapidly escalating local hostilities it is the nightmare of unrestrained nuclear proliferation with all of its attendant horrors. I find it difficult to understand how anyone among the world's leaders could consider that an expansion in the number of nuclear weapon states would contribute to greater world stability. Canada, despite its known competence in the field, rejected the nuclear weapons option long ago. Now we are making every effort to ensure that others do likewise. We will only co-operate, in terms of nuclear supplies and technology, with those countries who have signed the non-proliferation treaty or are otherwise committed to full scope safeguards. We are encouraged by the fact that some other nuclear suppliers, including Australia and Sweden, have adopted a similar policy. We hope there will be more.

For Canada recognizes that with the inevitable decline, and increasing costs of conventional energy sources, much of the world will have no choice but to turn to nuclear sources to meet energy demands. We appreciate also that there are legitimate differences of opinion on the question of the safest and most efficient means of utilizing nuclear resources and technology. This is true even in countries whose commitment to non-proliferation is total and unquestioned.

Canada, therefore, welcomes and supports the London Summit meeting proposal for a thorough study of alternative fuel cycles that avoid the use of plutonium or improve safeguards. We commend the United States for its initiatives in this field and hope that all countries will give it their full support. This subject is much too broad and too important to be dealt with in a few moments. I hope, that this Assembly will provide the time for a full-scale discussion for there can be no subject of greater importance.

Peacekeeping

Because of Canada's special interest I hope and expect there will be an opportunity also to discuss U.N. peacekeeping activities. In the Middle East, Cyprus and South Asia, United Nation's peacekeeping forces or observer groups are in place. Soon there may be further requests involving Zimbabwe and Namibia.