

(Mr. Beesley, Canada)

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There are other encouraging signs, as other representatives in this Conference have already pointed out. The successful outcome of the Stockholm Conference last year, coupled with current prospects for the successful conclusion of the bilateral negotiations on intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF), have contributed to improving the atmosphere in the Conference on Disarmament markedly and even, some have suggested, to the quickening of our pace at least in some areas. However, with the exception of the negotiations to ban chemical weapons, progress on the main issues on our agenda is not always evident from day to day or even from session to session. Nevertheless, the global picture appears more encouraging when viewed over a period of four years.

There is no issue which has proven more controversial than that of verification. Even if it is not on our agenda as a separate item, it is omnipresent in our work. During my time, this issue of verification, a long-standing Canadian priority which we have regarded as the key to arms control and disarmament agreements, has gradually come to be universally accepted as the essential requirement for the conclusion of such agreements. As the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Mr. van den Broek, pointed out in his statement to the CD last month, "it is increasingly recognized that asking for on-site inspection" to verify a treaty with important security implications "is reasonable and legitimate". He went on to say that "the growing consensus on the need for strict verification holds the promise of progress with regard to arms control in general". It is

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