

## **Nuclear Proliferation**

Nuclear proliferation remains the most critical problem facing the world. There are a number of issues on the non-proliferation agenda:

- extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT);
- North Korea's challenge to the non-proliferation system;
- ongoing negotiations for a comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT); and
- prospective negotiations for a "cut-off" convention, which would end the production of fissile materials for explosive purposes.

It is imperative that the G-7 countries continue to support the efforts to contain nuclear proliferation that were initiated at the Munich Summit and reiterated at the Tokyo Summit last year.

First and foremost, Canada believes that the international community must work toward achieving universal accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and its indefinite extension at the NPT Extension Conference in 1995. Ratified by 167 countries, this treaty is the main international instrument for curbing nuclear proliferation. Several countries with nuclear programs or nuclear weapons on their territory have not yet signed the treaty.

Significant reductions in the nuclear arsenals of the United States and countries of the former Soviet Union during the last year should help to pave the way for a successful conclusion of the 1995 NPT Extension Conference, but other nuclear weapons states should also do their part. The conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty among the nuclear weapons states would be the surest way to prevent a new nuclear arms race. A universal and extended moratorium by all nuclear weapons states would serve to keep the ongoing CTBT negotiations in the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament (CD) on track. Progress toward "cut-off" convention negotiations in the CD would also help to improve the climate for indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

These recent accomplishments should allay the suspicions of a number of countries that the nuclear non-proliferation regime is perpetuating a system of unequal responsibility and security. Undermining the NPT would create greater risks and instability. The best guarantee against nuclear adventurism is an indefinite extension of the treaty. Canada will work with its G-7 partners and other like-minded countries to achieve a successful conclusion of the NPT Extension Conference.