

While all CD participants recognise the urgency of concluding a treaty, there continue to be many outstanding problems and differences of opinion on such fundamental issues as the destruction of existing stockpiles of chemical weapons, the destruction of production facilities and verification provisions which have slowed considerably the negotiation of a Chemical Weapons Convention.

Under the Canadian chairmanship of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Chemical Weapons in 1983, significant progress was made toward identifying those issues that could be agreed upon and that might form the basis for a Chemical Weapons Convention. In April 1984, the United States tabled a draft text for a treaty banning chemical weapons. Canada welcomed this step. Since that time, work has continued, but progress has been slow and there remain several difficult issues to be resolved.

It has long been Canadian policy to prevent the weaponization of outer space, and Canada has been an active supporter of all initiatives to discuss this issue, both in the multilateral U.N. context and bilaterally between the superpowers. We therefore welcomed the modest but significant progress made in 1985 in the CD, when members agreed on a mandate for an *Ad Hoc* Committee on Outer Space. The work in the CD will complement the ongoing bilateral negotiations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The establishment of a mandate is an important first step in moving toward the negotiation of a treaty preventing the weaponization of outer space.

Here again, Canada has undertaken some basic research projects to facilitate the discussions. These include a survey of existing treaties and international law relevant to arms control in outer space, funded by External Affairs and undertaken with the assistance of the Institute and Centre of Air and Space Law at McGill University, Montréal; a compendium of statements made in the CD on Outer Space; and a technical feasibility study on space-to-space surveillance conducted by Spar Aerospace under contract from External Affairs.

Although the issues that form the CD agenda are vitally important and have far-reaching implications, they receive little or no public attention or support. Why is this so? Consider the consequences of the negotiation of a CTB, a CW Convention, and a Treaty Preventing the Weaponization of Outer Space: