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Arms control and disarmament

"As a result of the persistent efforts of the international community to enhance international security through arms limitation and disarmament measures we are now on a threshold of important development," declared R. Harry Jay, Canada's Representative to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva. He was speaking in the United Nations First Committee debate on disarmament at the United Nations headquarters in New York on October 27.

"Because it relates to fundamental questions of nations' perceptions of their security interests, arms control and disarmament is a difficult, uphill task and the past has been fraught with frustration. There are, however, grave and pressing dangers inherent in a failure to make real progress. Moreover, other more constructive demands on the resources of all of us make clear that our efforts must be pursued with renewed determination."

Ambassador Jay noted that of all the problems of armaments, those presented by nuclear weapons were the most worrying and urgent. In terms of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the arsenals of the "superpowers", the ongoing efforts of

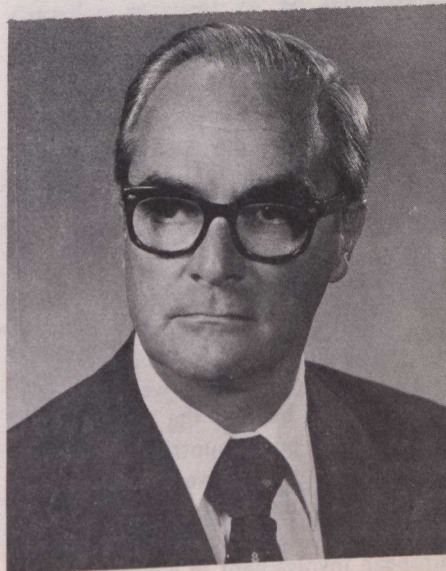
the United States and the Soviet Union to reach agreement on a series of measures to curtail, and then to reverse the strategic confrontation, were of vital importance. These bilateral negotiations, Ambassador Jay emphasized, must ultimately aim at curbing the technological arms race as well as reducing the number of nuclear weapons.

Because the world must come to terms with a growing energy shortage, and because many countries are looking to nuclear energy as a solution, Ambassador Jay argued, the pressing need to improve the international non-proliferation system, to strengthen safeguards, to implement the Non-Proliferation Treaty more effectively and to re-examine the risks inherent in various nuclear cycles and processes was all the more important. He said Canada had been prepared to adopt rigorous measures at the national level but this enterprise could only be pursued effectively through a collective international approach involving nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear weapon, industrialized and developing countries, nuclear suppliers and importers, all of which shared a common interest in avoiding the dangers inherent in the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

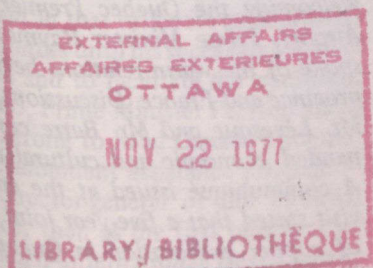
In the name of Canada, Ambassador Jay welcomed heartily the fact that a comprehensive test ban had now come under active negotiation by three of the major nuclear-weapon powers. He looked to these tripartite negotiations to clear away the present "log-jams" so that the necessary multilateral phase of the negotiation of a comprehensive test ban might be carried out in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament without further delay.

Chemical weapons

The same could be said, Ambassador Jay stressed, about the ongoing negotiations between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. in another field of mass-destruction weapons to which the General Assembly had assigned a high priority — namely, the achievement of a treaty banning chemical



R. Harry Jay



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