

There are several other ways in which the Government actively seeks and assists communication with the public on arms control and disarmament issues.

As Ambassador for Disarmament, I reconstituted the Consultative Group on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs. The Consultative Group is made up of more than 50 representatives from non-governmental organizations, universities and interested individuals who gather regularly to discuss and tender advice to the Government on arms control and disarmament questions.

The Consultative Group has met twice in recent months – a general meeting in November 1984, and a smaller, sub-group meeting in April 1985.

- In November, the Consultative Group discussed a broad range of issues: from Canada's role and influence in Washington, Moscow, within NATO and the United Nations, to a careful examination of the arms control and disarmament agenda – from chemical weapons to nuclear non-proliferation.
- In April, a sub-group met to discuss in detail Canada's approach to the Third Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Group also considered the question of the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI). Some members prepared a statement expressing their concern over superpower efforts to achieve a capability to deploy ballistic missile defence systems and the risks they could pose to both ongoing arms control negotiations and existing agreements, in particular the ABM Treaty.

The Government also maintains a Disarmament Fund for the purpose of helping Canadians discuss, research and disseminate information on arms control and disarmament issues.

Since its inception in 1979, the Fund has disbursed \$1.5 million to a total of 149 recipients, including a wide range of prominent Canadian groups, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions from virtually every province. A full report on this unique method of assisting public discourse has just been published.

With assistance from the Disarmament Fund, which last year provided \$753,000 to 53 groups:

- Scientists at McGill University's Institute of Air and Space Law are undertaking research projects relating to arms control, disarmament and outer space;