

Canadian NGOs were of uniformly high calibre. Written presentations by the Dundas Peace Research Institute, Voice of Women and Project Ploughshares stood out for their exceptional quality. The generally measured, non-acrimonious presentations by NGOs played an important role in reinforcing the positive atmosphere.

(C) THE END

The COW reconvened on June 20 to receive the non-consensus working group reports upon which a draft Chairman's Paper was to be based. In addition, a special report was presented by Mexican CD Ambassador Garcia Robles on Item 11 - Comprehensive Programme on Disarmament (CPD), recommending that UNSSOD III should request the CD to continue its negotiations on a CPD and report to UNGA 43 or, if necessary, UNGA 44.

The failure to reach agreed formulations on any substantive agenda item toward the final stages of the Special Session engendered a somewhat reflective discussion concerning what UNSSOD III should be expected to achieve. Pakistani COW Chairman Ahmad set a positive and realistic tone in characterizing the Special Session as a process which should provide direction for the future. Ambassador Roche for Canada pleaded with delegations to build on the recent progress in ACD, not to deny those areas where agreement existed, and to rise above their differences and strive to record consensus. While many other participants also stressed the need to build on progress already achieved, some placed more emphasis on the need for UNSSOD III to deal with the full range of issues and reflect legitimate differences as well as areas of agreement - thus signifying that consensus-building, in the short remaining time available, would be a difficult task.

The COW met again briefly on June 22 to receive the Chairman's "Non-Paper" which provided delegations with a suggested formulation for a concluding document. Despite some specific difficulties, Canada and many others were pleased at its pragmatic and balanced tone. The Chairman then presided over informal discussions among some two dozen selected countries (including Canada) and numerous amendments were proposed. Rather than striving for consensus, many delegations instead focused on staking out their positions.

The COW did not meet again until the final morning of the Special Session in an atmosphere of growing concern regarding the prospects for success. A revised draft Chairman's Paper was circulated. When, by evening, with large sections of the draft paper still unagreed, it had