

Canada, to have any influence at all, must work from a strong position within the Alliance and, in fact, the Government recently strengthened our contribution to NATO. We are not a neutral nation. We have commitments to our defence partners. We seek to broaden the perspective of everyone's thinking, so that the new concept of the "common ground" that all nations share on this one planet can lead to a better system of collective security.

Canadians should understand that a realistic role for Canada to play involves a long series of steps, not reliance on a "quick fix" to make the world a safer place. A commitment to the long haul is the surest route for Canada to take if we are to make a lasting contribution to peace, with security and freedom and justice.

Determination is not the least of the qualities Canada needs in the search for peace and disarmament. We must constantly use our influence to reverse the nuclear build-up and reduce the danger of destruction. This determination — as the Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, expressed it to the United Nations on September 25, 1984 — "will be a constant, consistent, dominant priority of Canadian foreign policy."

Anyone involved seriously in disarmament work quickly realizes how true are the words of the Throne speech at the opening of the current Parliament:

"Patience and perseverance we will need, for in this endeavour even the smallest progress is worthy of the greatest effort."

Three small experiences I had during my first months as Ambassador for Disarmament made a greater impact on me than many of the lengthy speeches I have heard at the United Nations.

- One night at a dinner party, I was seated at a table of U.N. diplomats who, after fighting with one another all day, enlivened the party with common stories about their children and grandchildren. The antagonists by day became the proud parents by night.
- When I finished speaking to a Baptist Peace Convention in Port Hope, Ontario, a number of young people approached me to ask what specific areas of my work as Ambassador for Disarmament I wanted them to pray for.