

Chapter 2

Objectives and Mandate

On September 25, 1985, at the 40th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, spoke of Canada's approach to the issue of verification. He outlined what he termed a "program of action" for the latter half of the disarmament decade of the 1980s. He pledged Canada "to step up its work in improving the verification process." In his address to the 41st session of the General Assembly on September 24, 1986, Mr. Clark reinforced his earlier pledge by

urging all nations "to co-operate and indeed participate in the development of the verification techniques needed to provide the confidence necessary to ratify ACD agreements."

At the heart of Canada's program of action is the Verification Research Program of the Department of External Affairs. Innovative in concept and focussed on the multilateral process in application, the program is currently funded at \$1 million per annum. It provides a natural framework within

Figure 4 The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Clark, addressing the United Nations General Assembly on September 24, 1986

