

I took advantage of my being in Geneva to speak to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament about a subject to which Canada attaches the greatest importance: the need for a complete ban on nuclear testing, including underground testing.

This Assembly will soon be seized of the CCD special report on nuclear testing, and for this reason I should like to make again here some of the points I made in Geneva. Before a complete test-ban can be achieved there are political as well as technical difficulties to be overcome. Canada is not alone in believing that these very difficulties call for a determined and speedy effort to reach a total ban on underground nuclear testing. There are steps which could be taken at once, before international agreement is reached, steps we believe all members of the United Nations would support. Those governments that are conducting nuclear tests could limit both the size and the number of tests they are now carrying out, starting with the biggest, and announce such restraints publicly. This would present no difficulty or involve any complication.

There is little time left to us to ensure that the Non-Proliferation Treaty becomes fully effective. All the measures needed to make the Non-Proliferation Treaty viable should receive the highest priority, and the ending of all nuclear tests must come first. Many governments are anxious to see all obstacles to the full implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty removed, before the precarious equilibrium among the nuclear-weapons powers is further disturbed -- whether it is by ongoing scientific and technical developments or by the emergence of new nuclear powers. Canada is at one with those governments, in their concern and in their determination.

The continuation of nuclear-weapons tests is at the root of the problem. The ending of all nuclear tests by all governments in all environments is of the greatest possible importance, for Canada and for the whole international community.

The safety of all is the concern of all. For Canada there is, if possible, an additional concern. The detonation by the Soviet Union in the last few days of a large underground nuclear explosion, and the possibility of a considerably larger test in our own neighbourhood by the United States, emphasize that the rate and size of underground testing is on the increase. Competitive testing must not be advanced by the nuclear powers as a justification for maintaining the momentum of the arms race. The danger is that it will, and this brings home to us all the urgent need for a complete ban on nuclear testing.

Turning now to my fourth illustration of the universality of problems today I suggest that there is no part of the world and no country that is unaffected by the difficulties now being experienced in the monetary and trading arrangements arising out of the chronic balance-of-payments deficit of the United States. Developing countries are well aware that problems between the fortunate few are of great importance to them. They are affected directly in two ways, by the adverse effect upon development assistance and by increased barriers to the trade that, in the long run, offers the best possibility of economic betterment for their peoples.