

First, Canada believes that deep and verifiable reductions in the existing arsenals of nuclear weapons is the highest priority. Moving to lower levels of arms while preserving the stability of the balance at each successive stage of reduction is the only practical way to make progress. Thus we give our full support to the bilateral negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union now taking place in Geneva. The summit meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, in 55 days' time, provides an opportunity to chart a new course for the future, leading to practical steps to unlock the disarmament impasse.

Second, for Canada, the achievement of a comprehensive test ban treaty continues to be a fundamental and abiding objective. Our aim is to stop all nuclear testing.

Third, the early conclusion of a chemical weapons treaty is now within reach in the Conference on Disarmament.

Fourth, the prevention of an arms race in outer space is now on the world agenda.

Thus, we know where we are going in arms control and disarmament measures. The Final Document of the First Special Session on Disarmament in 1978 should continue to be our guide. The remarkable consensus achieved by the world community on that occasion must again be renewed as we look towards the Third Special Session on Disarmament.

The successful review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which concluded last Saturday in Geneva, was a significant step forward. For, by consensus, the states attending the review reaffirmed the viability and vitality of this 130-nation treaty that prevents the spread of nuclear weapons while assuring the international community at large of the benefits of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The international co-operation that characterized the NPT review shows that the multilateral process can and does contribute to strengthened world security.

Canada will continue to play an active role in all the multilateral forums and to strengthen our contribution to confidence-building. In this respect, Canada has devised a program of action for the latter half of this Disarmament Decade. In this program, we will step up our work in improving the verification process, so necessary to ensuring compliance with negotiated treaties.

To advance work on the verification of a comprehensive test ban treaty, we will upgrade our analytical capability in seismic research. We will improve our large seismic facility in the Canadian North. We will expand the ability to differentiate between small earthquakes and underground nuclear tests.

As part of the program of action, we will develop, and make available to the UN, practical studies on chemical-weapons use, along with Canadian specialists to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons.

Moreover, we will pursue a multilateral agreement to ban the possession, as well as the use of, all radiological weapons. I call on the United States and the Soviet Union to conclude an effectively verifiable treaty banning radiological weapons. Canada is ready to sign such a treaty immediately.