

can deal effectively with the potential spread of such weapons throughout the world.

Reflecting its commitment to a nuclear test ban, Canada participated in the work of the CD's Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts. The activity of this group is directed towards the eventual verification of compliance with a treaty to ban underground nuclear explosions. In this regard, Canada hosted a meeting of the group in September 1989 on the occasion of the opening of the refurbished Yellowknife Seismological Array, which has the capacity to detect underground disturbances at distances up to 10,000 kilometres. Canada provided the global coordinator for the Technical Test, which began in January 1990 to exchange seismic data, and which will help lay the necessary groundwork for the eventual agreement for the cessation of nuclear testing.

As a staunch supporter of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Canada participated in preparations leading to its fourth Review Conference. Canadian efforts were aimed at strengthening the credibility of this important agreement and promoting universal adherence to it.

The Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament, Peggy Mason, participated in several multilateral deliberations in the field of arms control, including the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament issues, and two preparatory meetings for the fourth NPT Review Conference (held in August-September 1990).

As part of the mandate to promote a dialogue between the government and the interested public on arms control and disarmament issues, and to ensure that the public's views are part of the policy development process, the Ambassador participated in a number of academic conferences and meetings and met with several non-governmental organizations across the country.

The Ambassador for Disarmament also chaired the annual meeting of the Consultative Group on Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs, which discussed policy options for Canada in the promotion of nuclear non-proliferation. One of the options discussed by the Group – control of tritium exports – resulted in a Canadian initiative on the international scene.