

piling of chemical weapons. Discussion of this question in the CCD and elsewhere this year has provided some glimmer of hope for at least a modest breakthrough towards resolving the problems -- particularly the problems of verification -- that have so long stood in the way of achieving such a convention. This Assembly should give further encouragement to the CCD to press ahead with this task.

We also look for progress in the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts. At this stage, all of us must redouble our efforts to ensure that agreements will be reached on certain prohibitions or restrictions on the use of specific conventional weapons that may cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects.

Many members of the Assembly have expressed the view that the cause of disarmament could be significantly advanced by the convening of a special session on disarmament. Canada stands ready to support a call for such a special session and to participate fully and constructively in it and in the careful preparations that it will require. It must not be a dialogue of the deaf. Our objective for the session must be to infuse a new sense of purpose into the quest for peace and security.

I have sought to underline the arms-control problems Canada considers most pressing. It should be clear to this Committee that Canadians firmly believe that no more time must be lost in seeking resolutions to those problems. We must all, as the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs said in this Assembly on September 29, "re-examine our traditional assumptions, take adequate account of the security concerns of others and seize all opportunities for concrete action".