

continental shelves. Canada submitted a working paper to the Committee outlining an adequate verification system, and, in the First Committee, at the twenty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly, our suggestions were tabled as an amendment to the verification article of the Co-chairmen's joint draft treaty.

The United States and the Soviet Union did not press at the twenty-fourth General Assembly for a decision concerning the adoption of their joint draft, with or without the amendments suggested by Canada and other member states. Consequently, the task of completing the negotiation of a seabed arms-control treaty remains on the agenda of the Geneva Committee.

#### Chemical and Biological Warfare (CBW)

On July 1, 1969, the Secretary-General of the United Nations released a report prepared with the assistance of a group of experts (including a scientist from Canada's Defence Research Board) concerning the problem of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons and the effects of their possible use. This report was undertaken in accordance with a resolution co-sponsored by Canada which had been approved by the twenty-third session of the General Assembly. The report and the Secretary-General's recommendations which accompanied it were considered in the Geneva Disarmament Committee.

On July 10, Britain introduced a draft convention proscribing the development, production and stockpiling of biological weapons; this convention was proposed as a supplement to the Geneva Protocol of 1925, which prohibits only the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons. Although some countries objected to separate consideration of biological agents of warfare, Canada supported the British draft convention on the ground that it should be easier to negotiate a treaty on biological weapons, which have never been used and were not believed to be stockpiled in other than research quantities by any country. Furthermore, the British draft convention in no way precluded parallel consideration of measures designed to prohibit the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons. At the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly, the Soviet Union proposed a draft convention prohibiting both chemical and biological weapons.

In consultation with several other nations, Canada prepared a draft procedural resolution on chemical and biological warfare and introduced this resolution in the First Committee of the twenty-fourth General Assembly. The resolution, which was approved unanimously, referred all proposals back to the Geneva Disarmament Committee for more detailed examination and for recommendations to the twenty-fifth General Assembly concerning measures to reduce or eliminate the threat of chemical and biological warfare.

#### Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban (CTB)

The Partial Nuclear Test Ban (PTB) treaty of 1963 prohibits nuclear-weapons tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water, but it does not prohibit underground nuclear tests. The principal impediment to the achievement of a comprehensive test ban prohibiting testing in all