

## Need to Expand CD Membership

*The following are excerpts from a statement by Canadian Ambassador Gerald Shannon to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva on March 18. The CD has a limited membership (39 countries), though non-member states may be invited to participate as observers.*

Canada has recognized for some time that the current Conference on Disarmament membership no longer reflects the changing international security environment. We in Canada think exclusivity is no longer acceptable. Collectively, as Conference on Disarmament members, we are now in the process of defining criteria for changing the membership of the Conference on Disarmament. However, many problems regarding membership need first to be answered: how can the limited membership being advocated by some be justified in 1993? Why should countries be excluded because they are situated in a certain geographic region? And who is to judge that countries should be excluded because they are not directly involved in the problems emerging from the new international security environment?

The United Nations funds the operations of the Conference on Disarmament and all United Nations members have assessed costs. In our view, it is unthinkable in this new age of international cooperation and democratization that United Nations Member States can be called upon to fund a multilateral organization but be excluded from its membership. Canada believes strongly that any interested state that applies for membership in the Conference on Disarmament should be welcomed as a full member.

as it becomes more and more apparent that a host of post-Cold War problems are best addressed at the regional level. At the same time, it is equally clear that regional approaches must be consistent with, and supportive of, global norms. In our statements during both the regular and resumed sessions of the First Committee, we have focused on the unique role that the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs is playing in promoting a mutually reinforcing interaction between the regional and global levels.

It is our hope that agreement can be reached in Working Group III on language that will provide concrete support to the "regional role" of the United Nations as well as to other, complementary, efforts at regional security building.

Regarding the subject matter of Working Group I, nuclear disarmament, Canada shares the hope of our Chairman, Ambassador Castro, that our general exchange of views this year lays a solid foundation for conclusion of this item in 1994. In that discussion Canada will call not only for further reductions by the US and Russia but also for meaningful progress towards nuclear disarmament on the part of China, the United Kingdom and France.

The time has also come for the commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning all nuclear test explosions in all envi-

ronments for all time. The US has enacted legislation calling for a negotiation and, more recently, Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin agreed at the Vancouver Summit that "negotiations on a multilateral test ban should commence at an early date." In Canada's view the negotiations should proceed forthwith in the Conference on Disarmament. In the working group, we will elaborate some ideas on how the CD might proceed to tackle verification of a comprehensive test ban treaty.

I would also note that, in Canada's view, the CD would be in the best possible position to proceed were it to act decisively on the membership issue and open its doors to all UN Member States that wish to contribute to the negotiation of a CTBT or any other multilateral disarmament issue.

Turning to the 1994 session, Canada strongly supports inclusion of the item on non-proliferation. We attach singular priority to sustained action by the international community on all fronts, from the strengthening of global norms and their enforcement, through the broadening and deepening of supplier groups, down to rig-

orous implementation of national controls. Central to the process of strengthening the global nuclear non-proliferation regime is the indefinite and unconditional extension of the lynchpin of that regime, the NPT, together with the relentless pursuit of its universal adherence. In that regard, Canada deeply regrets and deplores the decision of the DPRK to quit the NPT. At the same time, we congratulate Belarus for its accession and call on Ukraine and Kazakhstan to do the same.

Canada also looks forward in 1994 to starting discussions on international arms transfers, with particular reference to illegal activities. The establishment of the UN register of conventional arms is an important first step in bringing international scrutiny to bear on the problem of excessive and destabilizing accumulations of conventional armaments. We intend to submit our report to the register in full by the April 30 deadline and we urge others to do the same.

In supporting the addition of this item to the UNDC agenda, we are cognizant that the CD and the UN Experts Group will be examining the expansion of the register in 1994. We will need to ensure that our discussions in this forum focus on unique aspects of the problem and do not repeat the efforts of others. In this regard, the issue of the role of private arms dealers, highlighted by the Secretary-General in his *New Dimensions* report, may warrant examination by the Commission. Such an approach may also allow us to successfully conclude this item in two years, thus enabling the Commission to finally begin a fully phased approach.

In conclusion, the post-Cold War era abounds with urgent challenges to international peace and security. What role can

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the Disarmament Commission play in helping to meet these myriad demands? One thing seems clear — the way forward does not lie in language "fixes" or lowest common denominator texts. What is needed is a genuine broadening of multilateral agreement on the items before us. Canada believes that the objective is both attainable and worthy of the effort. ■