

policy on arms control and disarmament. In my statement on the occasion of Disarmament Week last October, I outlined various steps which my department has been taking to encourage research and public information activities in Canada on arms control and disarmament issues. It is my hope that additional funds can be made available to assist the increasing efforts being made by institutions, organizations and individuals across the country. The Department of National Defence, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Department of the Secretary of State, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council have also contributed to the government's efforts to implement the recommendations on research and information in the Final Document of UNSSOD I.

Among the benefits of increased research and public information activities can be a greater awareness of the place of arms control and disarmament agreements as a means toward the much broader end of a more stable and secure world. I recall the public pessimism two years ago following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. There was a disturbing tendency to denigrate the achievements in arms control and disarmament, to assume the process had come to a halt, and to talk about war as imminent or inevitable. In one of my first speeches as Secretary of State for External Affairs I rejected such analyses. Those self-defeating views have been coming to the fore again in recent months and sometimes become translated into calls for unilateral disarmament. Let me say now, as I said on that same occasion two years ago, disarmament must be by agreement; it must not be unilateral. The negotiation of arms control and disarmament agreements, I concluded, is a security imperative for the Eighties. That is why UNSSOD II is important for Canada.

I wish to conclude my statement by saying that I look forward positively to the second Special Session on Disarmament. There is interest and support from a growing number of people in Canada. The hearings of this Committee have served well to bring to parliamentary and government attention a range of views and proposals. The Committee's report will be welcomed by the government in the formulation of Canadian positions to be taken at UNSSOD II.

The Canadian delegation to the first Special Session made a significant contribution to its success. The Final Document which was produced by consensus is remarkable in setting out a common declaration of principles, outlining a program of action and updating international machinery.

The international atmosphere since 1978 has not been propitious for the negotiation of arms control and disarmament agreements. But we have not stood still like a ring of Arctic musk-oxen when threatened. Canada has made genuine efforts to help resolve international disputes. We have been generous in providing food and homes for refugees. And we have made continuing efforts to further arms control and disarmament negotiations.