

plenary statement, my country's Secretary of State for External Affairs welcomed the joint American and Soviet commitment to a step-by-step approach to further restrictions on nuclear testing. He then went on to state Canada's belief that "that commitment should be followed up immediately..."

Another positive development on this subject was the re-establishment — after a long hiatus — of an ad hoc committee on nuclear testing at this year's session of the Conference on Disarmament. This committee has initiated substantive consideration of issues related to a CTBT. The upcoming Partial Test Ban Treaty Amendment Conference will provide an additional opportunity for parties to exchange views on all aspects related to this fundamental issue. It is Canada's hope that it will also provide fresh impetus to the CD's consideration of nuclear testing.

Parties to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty recently held their Fourth Review Conference in Geneva. As a staunch supporter of that Treaty, which we regard as a vital security instrument for the entire international community, Canada played an active role in the review and was very satisfied with progress that was achieved, particularly in the areas of full-scope safeguards and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Despite a rigorous review of, and much agreement on, the disarmament aspects of the Treaty, Canada greatly regrets that no overall consensus was possible on Article VI-related questions because of differences of view over the nuclear testing issue and its relationship to the future of the NPT. In this regard, I would like to reiterate the deep concern expressed by Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs at the tendency of some states parties to threaten the continued existence of the NPT by seeking to make its extension conditional on the achievement of a CTBT. In his words, "it is Canada's firm view that both the Non-Proliferation Treaty and a comprehensive test ban treaty are too important for international peace and security to be held hostage one to the other."

Turning now to conventional weapons and forces, another landmark

achievement that will become reality in the very near future is the agreement to drastically reduce the current levels of conventional forces in Europe. As an active participant in the CFE negotiation, Canada takes great satisfaction in the highly positive outcome of this process. We look forward to future stages of these negotiations to consider even further reductions of conventional forces and an eventual CFE II agreement. The CFE process complements continued observation of the terms of the Stockholm Document. It will benefit further from the implementation of the next set of confidence- and security-building measures to be agreed in the ongoing CSBM negotiations in Vienna.

The Helsinki process, which has provided the impetus for so much good work in the area of cooperative security, as well as human rights, will take a historic step forward when the leaders of Europe, Canada and the United States meet next month in Paris to declare the end of the Cold War and to celebrate the beginning of a new era of cooperation among the 34 countries of the CSCE. With its unique transatlantic and pan-European membership, Canada believes the CSCE can make a major contribution to the new European architecture. Thus, we would like to see the Summit begin the institutionalization of the CSCE by, inter alia, establishing a secretariat, regularizing political consultations and by providing CSCE participating states with a Centre for the Prevention and Resolution of Conflict. Such a Centre could support the implementation of agreed CSBMs and play

a key role in using other mechanisms — political, legal and technical — in the prevention and resolution of conflict.

Canada believes that other regions of the world characterized by high levels of armament or by tension would likewise benefit from the negotiation and implementation of confidence- and security-building measures. In this regard, we note the important role that the UN may play, as exemplified by the recent Kathmandu meeting on "The

Security-Enhancing Role of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures."

In the area of chemical weapons, efforts have been intense over the last year towards overcoming differences in order to conclude a treaty on a world-wide ban. The bilateral US-USSR agreement on chemical weapons destruction, signed in June, represents an important achievement that gives us all encouragement that verifiable disarmament in the area of chemical weapons is possible and, indeed, about to begin on a bilateral level. Nevertheless, we have a long way to go towards the global elimination of chemical weapons. Negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament this year confronted challenging problems that must be overcome. While not diminishing the complexity of the outstanding differences, Canada is convinced that a determined effort by all states involved in the negotiations both can and must succeed in concluding — at the earliest possible date — a treaty acceptable to all sides.

Canada looks forward to actively participating in consideration of the full range of items on the agenda of this Committee. I wish to comment briefly on four items of particular interest to my delegation.

Verification is an area where Canada has a long tradition of both expertise and leadership in the multilateral context. We were therefore delighted that a Canadian, Mr. Fred Bild, was selected

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to chair the Group of Qualified Governmental Experts' study on the Role of the United Nations in Verification. On behalf of Mr. Bild, I will introduce the final report of that Group later this week.

In Canada's view, the study provided an excellent opportunity to exchange views on a number of proposals concerning how the United Nations might make a contribution to the verification of arms control and disarmament agreements.