

General Assembly in New York. Progress has been made in some fields including that of chemical weapons where, through Canadian efforts, consensus was reached in Geneva this past summer - for the first time - on a complete document which outlines the elements of a possible comprehensive chemical weapons convention. Canada also intends to play an active part in the forthcoming Conference on Confidence- and Security- Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, which is to begin in Stockholm and which will address concrete measures designed to reduce the risk of military confrontation in Europe or conflict through miscalculation.

The time has come when each of us must decide what special contribution we can make to create an atmosphere conducive to progress in disarmament. One way Canada can help is by creating the means whereby confidence can be restored and parties assured that promises undertaken in negotiations will be adhered to; that is, by ensuring they can be fully verified. In this regard I am pleased to announce the establishment of an arms control and disarmament verification programme based in the Department of External Affairs. This follows Prime Minister Trudeau's announcement at the second United Nations Special Session on Disarmament that Canada would substantially increase research in verification and devote more attention to utilizing expertise available inside and outside the Government.

An initial amount of \$500,000 has been allocated for this programme. This amount will increase to \$1 million by next April. As well, the Arms Control and Disarmament Division of the Department of External Affairs will be allocated additional staff members to develop its verification research capability and to administer this new programme.

The expanding Canadian role in verification will build upon the greatly increased attention we have been devoting to verification during the past three years, particularly the promotion of research and development by the private sector, including universities and companies. The focus of the verification programme is primarily on technical aspects. Canada has expertise in seismology, remote sensing, toxicology, communication satellites and chemical weapons detection, destruction and defence. We intend to marshal this expertise more fully as our special contribution in support of the negotiation of agreements on nuclear, chemical and conventional weapons systems.

The programme will focus on certain Canadian arms control and disarmament priorities. Projects would include: