

urge the Committee to begin as soon as possible its essential task of defining legal and other issues necessary to build upon the outer space legal régime. Canada contributed to this objective in a working paper tabled here last summer. Verification is likely to loom large, as it does for a nuclear test ban and a chemical weapons ban. The expanding program of verification research in Canada will seek to identify possible solutions. We intend to participate actively in this work. It is the view of my government that it is time to establish a working group on this subject.

**Canadian  
priorities**

I have focused on four important issues, four Canadian priorities for 1983, on which I wished to put Canada's position strongly:

- Canada will press for progress toward the objective of a comprehensive nuclear test ban;
- Canada will press for a more effective non-proliferation régime;
- Canada will press for a convention to prohibit chemical weapons;
- Canada will press for progress towards the objective of prohibiting all weapons for use in outer space.

These are issues where there are prospects for genuine progress and where progress can make a direct contribution to mutual security.

Recent years have not been propitious for negotiations on arms control and disarmament. Yet the process has continued and is again beginning to show hopeful signs. Public statements by world leaders have underlined that the arms spiral is a major world-wide danger and that the negotiation of arms control and disarmament agreements is vital. There is room for optimism if arms control and disarmament negotiations are based on realism. Mutual security is our common goal.

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