

pipe for progress. The setting of timetables and target dates would not, in our view, contribute to the achievement of such a program. We should be clear as to our aims but flexible as to methods, having in mind the close interrelation between arms control and disarmament and the prevailing international climate.

On the basis of this approach, the draft comprehensive program tabled in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament on August 27 by the Delegations of Mexico, Sweden and Yugoslavia appears generally to place the issues in a logical framework and represents, in our view, a realistic effort to find an acceptable compromise formula. There are some aspects of it which we should wish to see changed but, on the whole, this draft program offers, we think, a basis for realistic negotiations during this session. It is our understanding, moreover, that the authors of this constructive proposal are willing to discuss their draft with others in an attempt to arrive at a formulation which would elicit widespread support at this Assembly and which could serve as viable, useful guidelines for the work of the Committee on Disarmament in the future.

"Hope," it has been said, "is the poor man's bread." We in the Committee on Disarmament have learned to realize that in the field of arms control and disarmament, where so much depends on great power relations and the international climate, "better is half a loaf than no bread". In this light, the significance of the progress made last year on the seabed arms-control treaty, as well as in clarifying some of the basic elements involved in verifying a comprehensive test ban through seismic co-operation, and a ban on the development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological and chemical weapons, should certainly not be underrated.

The Canadian delegation will lend its best efforts to consolidate the progress already made in the Committee on Disarmament during the discussions in this Committee. It is our hope that we can here lay firm foundations, through consensus, for progress at the next session of the Committee on Disarmament, particularly on a comprehensive program, on agreements to ban nuclear-weapons testing and on the development, production and stockpiling of chemical or biological weapons.