

## Related Concerns

The prevention of an arms race in outer space is a high priority for Canada. Canadian researchers contributed the first substantive working paper on possible stabilizing and destabilizing space-based military systems, and completed an exhaustive survey on the application of international law to outer space.

As important as they are, however, hopes and expectations concerning nuclear and space negotiations should not be allowed to distract attention from the necessity for complementary progress in conventional arms control, since 80 per cent of global arms spending is directed at conventional armaments. Conscious of the deplorable fact that more than 20 million people have died in "conventional" military conflicts since 1945, Canada strongly supports international efforts to achieve reductions in conventional arms.

In Vienna, Canada actively participates in the Negotiations on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) and in the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Europe (CSBM), which seek to establish a secure and stable balance of conventional forces in Europe at lower levels, and to build upon the work of the Stockholm Conference in developing further confidence- and security-building measures.

Equally important are Canada's efforts to achieve a global comprehensive and effectively verifiable ban on chemical weapons. In January 1989, Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, used the occasion of the Paris Conference on chemical weapons to strongly condemn the use of such weapons, both now and in the future, and promised Canada's unflagging support of the Conference on Disarmament's objective of banning chemical weapons in their entirety, and forever.

## Building Bridges and Maintaining Dialogue

Canada seeks to promote the understanding that authentic security is multi-dimensional, and that it is measured in political, economic, scientific and cultural terms. Through the organization of trade missions, cultural exchanges, and visits involving spe-

cialists and individuals from many different countries, Canada continues to reiterate its commitment to a global community in which all can participate as committed, responsible partners.

Establishing and sustaining political dialogue at all levels in order to build on common ground remains a consistent element of Canadian foreign policy. Canada has promoted such dialogue through its participation in multilateral organizations such as La Francophonie and the Commonwealth, where it has acquired a wider appreciation for regional security concerns and perspectives on arms control and disarmament issues. As a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Canada supports the policy of collective defence at the lowest possible level of armaments and has encouraged NATO's role in expanding economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation among its members.

Its geographical proximity to both the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. has provided Canada with a particular interest and role in reducing East-West tensions. In multilateral forums and in bilateral discussions, Canada has, for example, encouraged efforts by the Soviet Union and Eastern European nations to play an active and constructive role in the international arena.

As well, Canadian representatives do not hesitate to make their views known and offer encouragement on a regular basis to both superpowers in support of their efforts to pursue further arms limitations and reductions. For instance, Canada has voiced its strong support for the current negotiations which aim, as a first step, to develop improved verification measures for the Threshold Test Ban

Treaty (TTBT) and the Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty (PNET), so that the treaties can be ratified.

## A Continuing Commitment

The achievement of progress in arms control and disarmament is a key element of the larger objective of strengthening international peace and security.

Recent events demonstrate that great strides in the disarmament process are possible. Canada welcomed wholeheartedly the signing of the INF Agreement and now looks forward to progress towards reducing conventional and strategic nuclear arsenals.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has emphasized the government's commitment to work effectively within multilateral forums to reduce tensions, alleviate conflict and create the conditions for a lasting peace, stating that: "There can be no letup in our efforts to reduce the threat of war. No matter how frustrating or difficult, negotiations must be pursued . . . . The exercise of political will is nowhere more important than on this issue on whose outcome the lives of our children and humanity depend."

**The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, addressing the United Nations General Assembly. (UN Photo)**

