



which we are all parties can ever be verifiable to the standards of adequacy which many of us would normally require to be incorporated into any significant arms control and disarmament agreement.

There is another regrettable fact which must be taken into account during the course of our deliberations here. In contrast to the situation which prevailed at the time when the First Review Conference convened, there have in the intervening period been several allegations of serious breaches of the Convention. This is cause for major concern. Canada accepts that these allegations have not been made frivolously nor in the absence of disturbing evidence. The seriousness of the Canadian Government's concerns about these allegations is attested by our having conducted several investigations relating to allegations of toxin weapons use in Southeast Asia. These investigations have formed the basis of three separate submissions to the United Nations Secretary-General. These investigations do not, in themselves, definitively confirm the use of toxin weapons in that region. However, neither do they refute the validity of the allegations nor in any way allay our sense of concern. On the basis of Canadian investigations, anomalous epidemiological phenomena in Southeast Asia in the early 1980s remain inadequately explained. The most salient point which Canada's investigative effort in that region underlines is the absolute necessity of full, prompt, unqualified cooperation on the part of all directly concerned parties if uncertainties about compliance are to be satisfactorily resolved. In the case of our own investigative activities, as in the case of a team of experts sent to the area by the UN Secretary-General in 1981, such cooperation was not forthcoming. We note that uncertainties relating to other alleged breaches of the Convention have similarly not been resolved. This is an unsatisfactory and unacceptable situation.

In the face of this situation, involving widespread doubts about the possibility of ever being able to devise adequate and practicable verification provisions, as well as as persisting unresolved uncertainties relating to allegations of non-compliance, it would be all too easy to lapse into a

despairing, do-nothing attitude. However, such a defeatist approach would only undermine the established norm against biological weapons. This Convention, which remains a legally binding instrument for all States Parties, is the strongest embodiment of that norm. The Canadian Government considers that it should be the task of this Conference to seek to strengthen the application of the Convention in realistic and operationally practicable ways. We hope this Conference will be able to reach agreement on a selection of measures to this end, which could be set out in politically binding form in the Final Document of this Conference, to be adopted by consensus. In particular, Canada would urge the desirability of building on the achievement of the First Review Conference by reiterating the right under Article V of any State Party to request the convening of a consultative meeting open to all States Parties at the expert level, and by stating the corresponding obligation of all directly concerned States Parties to respond positively to such a request through participation in the consultative meeting and by extending full cooperation in resolving any compliance-related questions. The Canadian delegation is also ready to give constructive and positive consideration to other proposed measures which could strengthen confidence that the norm against biological weapons is being respected and raise the level of assurance that the legal obligations embodied in the Convention are in reality being adhered to by all States Parties.

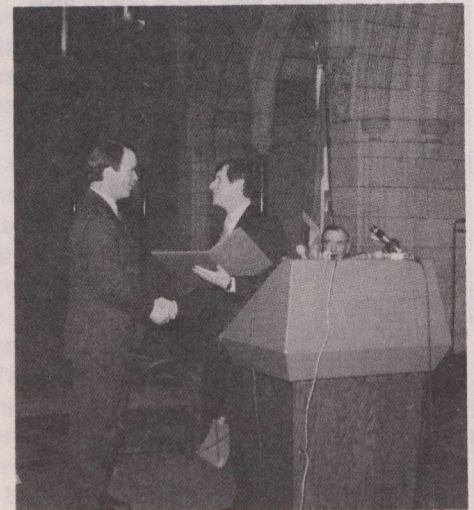
In conclusion, Mr. President, the Canadian delegation reaffirms before this body that Canada has never possessed biological weapons and continues in every respect to be in full compliance with all its obligations under the Convention. In the hope that it might encourage greater forthcomingness on the part of all States Parties with regard to the freer exchange of information concerning biotechnology research and development in our respective countries, the Canadian delegation is filing with the Conference Secretariat, with the request that it become an official Conference document, a paper setting out the general nature and magnitude of biotechnology activities in Canada and the extent of governmental involvement therein."

Canada Celebrates International Day of Peace

On September 15, the Department of External Affairs issued the following communiqué.

"The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced the details of a special ceremony to commemorate the International Day of Peace that will take place in the rotunda of the Centre Block on Parliament Hill at noon on September 16.

Mr. Clark said that this ceremony is being held in recognition of the UN-declared International Day of Peace, which falls on the third Tuesday in September of each year. This Day holds



Senator Lowell Murray receiving IYP stamp kit from the Honourable René Marin.

DND Photo

special significance in 1986, which has been declared the International Year of Peace (IYP) by the United Nations.

Mr. Clark announced that Senator Lowell Murray, Government Senate Leader and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations, will represent the Government of Canada at the ceremony. Mr. Clark noted that special projects undertaken by various government departments to mark the International Year of Peace will be displayed in the rotunda beginning at noon on September 16.