

responsibility for making policy. But the government is strongly committed to upgrading the public's input into the decisions that are made on questions relating to arms control and disarmament.

For this reason, I can announce today that I have reconstituted the Consultative Group on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs and invited a number of interested Canadians to attend a two-day meeting in Ottawa November 9 and 10. This meeting will discuss ways in which Canada can use its influence in the nuclear age to help reverse the dangerous trends that threaten human existence. It is my hope that this meeting in Ottawa will be followed up by a number of regional consultative meetings in 1985.

The Consultative Group will thus be an important channel for the Government to learn the thinking of Canadians and, in turn, for Canadians to learn the thinking of their Government.

As part of the effort to develop a broader understanding and balanced discussion of arms control and disarmament issues among the Canadian public, the Government will encourage that objective through the Disarmament Fund. That Fund - standing at \$700,000 in 1984 - was created as Canada's response to the United Nations' call for greater activity by all nations in the field of research, education and information dissemination on disarmament and arms control. The Fund helps interested non-governmental organizations, academic and public interest groups and individuals in preparing conferences, seminars and meetings. It also helps them produce newspapers and other publications on disarmament and to establish information centres all in the cause of promoting a better understanding of the issues.