



Ambassador Marchand Addresses Conference on Disarmament

The following are excerpts from the speech by the Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, Mr. de Montigny Marchand, to the Conference on March 10, in Geneva.

"In my initial plenary statement, I wish first to comment on recent and ongoing developments in the field of international security and arms control and disarmament outside this Conference, beginning with the bilateral negotiating process between the two main nuclear powers. Secondly, I want to address the three principal items on our agenda: the Negotiations on a Chemical Weapons Ban, Nuclear Test Ban and the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. And finally, I also want to say a few words on our preparations for the Third Special Session on Disarmament (UNSSOD III). Mr. President, throughout my remarks I shall emphasize what Canada considers a fundamentally important element which must characterize both the bilateral process and our multilateral work, that is, effective verification achieved through efficient, agreed implementation mechanisms. This is essential to maintain confidence in compliance.

The Conference on Disarmament begins its work this year amidst more auspicious circumstances than have prevailed for many years. The treaty on intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) signed by President Reagan and by General Secretary Gorbachev in Washington in December marks an historic achievement. It is the first agreement ever to provide for real reductions in nuclear weapons on a global basis and thereby constitutes an important first step in the reduction of nuclear arms. Canada's understanding of the significance of this agreement was succinctly expressed by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney:

'The treaty is welcome for what it accomplishes. It is also welcome for what it tells us about East-West relations. Only a few years ago, such agreement seemed far in the future — hopelessly idealistic.

So much has changed since then. What was once the stuff of dreams is beginning to come within our grasp: significant arms reductions; the resolution of regional conflicts; progress on human rights.'

The evident seriousness with which the USA and the USSR are pursuing additional arms control agreements is a further reason for encouragement. In particular, the priority attention now being given to the negotiation of a major reduction in strategic nuclear weapons deserves our full support. The successful conclusion of such an agreement would be a key contribution to the central objective of the arms control process — enhanced security at much lower levels of armaments.

The verification regime of the INF Treaty represents a breakthrough in efforts to provide effective verification provisions in a disarmament agreement. It includes not only prior exchanges of data but baseline inspections of facilities, challenge inspections and the establishment of permanent monitoring stations manned by each side at production

facilities on the territories of the other. These precedents will be extremely valuable for future agreements.

Indeed, Mr. President, this treaty, as well as the negotiations on substantially reducing strategic nuclear arms, constitutes an encouragement, an example and a precedent for our work in the Conference on Disarmament, particularly in the chemical weapons (CW) negotiations. The bilateral negotiations have illustrated a central truth of effective arms control: that meticulously detailed and often intrusive verification provisions are a necessary and central element of viable, politically sustainable arms control and disarmament agreements.

Our work on a draft convention banning chemical weapons has progressed during the last year and during the intersessional period, thanks to the untiring efforts of the chairman Ambassador Ekéus and his assistants Mr. Nieuwenhuys, Mr. Macedo and Dr. Krutzch. This work is now continuing under the able leadership of Ambassador Sujka to whom I pledge my full cooperation and that of my delegation.



Members of the Canadian delegation to the Conference on Disarmament in discussion with Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala, Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research. From left to right: Mr. Arsène Després, Canadian Counsellor, Ambassador de Montigny Marchand and Mr. Dhanapala.

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