

These objectives, which may appear modest at first glance, are truly critical ones in the long run. They mean that we must ensure that the debate on Article VI issues contributes in a positive manner to the overall objectives of the NPT and does not degenerate into an acrimonious debate which will only hold hostage progress in other areas of the NPT. They mean a reconfirmation of the need for nuclear weapon states, and particularly the United States and the Soviet Union, to negotiate in good faith toward the adoption of effective measures to achieve a cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and a significant reduction in nuclear arms.

Progress towards a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty has been traditionally associated with compliance on Article VI. For Canada, the achievement of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty continues to be a fundamental and abiding Canadian objective. We believe that a CTB is a concrete, realistic measure which would constitute a major step in curbing the development of new and more sophisticated nuclear weapons. It is regarded as an extremely important step towards halting both the vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons. As the UN Secretary-General stated earlier this year, "It is of direct importance to the future of humanity to end all nuclear explosions. No other means would be as effective in limiting the further development of nuclear weapons."

The world community would be relieved to see progress toward a verifiable, multilateral CTBT. Canada continues to work to overcome the significant political and technical obstacles, not least of which involves the verification of an eventual treaty. Canada has been an active participant in the Conference on Disarmament's Seismic Experts Group, strengthening the capability for seismic verification of a CTB.

While a review of events in the field of international security provides a checkered image of progress achieved, the situation is quite different if one turns to Articles III and IV of the Treaty. In the area of nuclear non-proliferation/ nuclear cooperation, the Treaty has served the world well. Proliferation risks have largely been contained and enhanced cooperation has taken place.

The comprehensive legally binding commitment to non-proliferation which the NPT offers and the verification of that commitment through IAEA safeguards together provide fundamental elements for the framework for nuclear cooperation. Canada believes that both elements -- commitment and verification of that commitment -- are essential to ensure that nuclear cooperation activities do