

MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

Secretary of State for External Affairs, (Third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament (UNSSOD III), New York, June 13, 1988.)

There has also been some movement forward in non-East-West forums but it has been much less spectacular. The Conference on Disarmament has made some progress on negotiations on a global convention to ban chemical weapons, but the repeated reports about the use of chemical weapons in the Gulf War only demonstrates how far we are from an effective agreement and the urgency of our obligations. There was also progress in last year's successful Disarmament and Development Conference, the endorsement of the Non-Proliferation Treaty at the Third Review Conference of the Treaty, the inclusion of conventional disarmament on the agenda of the United Nations and the consensus report of the UNDC on verification.

Indeed, one of the happy consequences of the Reagan-Gorbachev summits is to broaden the responsibility for arms control. For some time, the focus of arms control discussions was to encourage the superpowers to act. Now the superpowers are acting, and the question becomes whether other states are prepared to demonstrate themselves the leadership we have asked of the United States and the Soviet Union. It is no longer enough to advocate action by others. Whether the issue is chemical weapons or adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, or fidelity to the recommendations of the General Assembly, the new climate involves new obligations for all of us.

(SEE ALSO CHEMICAL WEAPONS, DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT), UNITED NATIONS AND VERIFICATION)

NATURE OF AGREEMENTS

(Secretary of State for External Affairs, (Third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament (UNSSOD III), New York, June 13, 1988)

Experience has shown that successful arms control and disarmament agreements share a number of essential qualities. The first and most obvious is enhanced security. Arms control agreements must maintain and enhance the security of all those involved in the negotiation.

There are other essential qualities as well.

One is mutual benefit. Realism in arms control demands that a successful negotiation offer something for all parties.