

tional confidence inevitably will cast its shadow over the deliberations. While only four months remain before the opening, we can only hope that the collective will to make progress on arms control and disarmament at UNSSOD II will prevail over the current climate of mistrust. Certainly this is the spirit in which the government of Canada approaches this conference.

We have informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations that Canada hopes that the Special Session will give highest priority to:

- (a) promoting continuation of the SALT process;
- (b) conclusion of a multilateral comprehensive test ban treaty;
- (c) conclusion of an agreement on the prohibition of chemical weapons;
- (d) evolution of an effective non-proliferation regime, based on the Non-Proliferation Treaty; and
- (e) promotion of concrete measures to limit and reduce conventional forces.

Agenda for  
UNSSOD II

The Preparatory Committee for UNSSOD II, on which I serve, has hammered out an agenda which includes a review of the present international situation as it affects implementation of UNSSOD I's program of action; a comprehensive program of disarmament which will restate that program of action; a review of disarmament machinery; new initiatives; and measures to mobilize world public opinion in favour of disarmament.

One may assume that, in the general debate, varying perceptions will be presented of the international situation and the reasons for lack of progress in implementing the program of action of UNSSOD I. Unless prior agreement is reached in the Committee on Disarmament of a comprehensive program of disarmament, and that must be done by consensus, prolonged debate on this item may be expected.

UNSSOD II will also consider several expert reports. The most important of these is probably the study on disarmament and development, to whose preparations Mr. Bernard Wood of the North-South Institute contributed. A popular version of this study by Clyde Sanger has been commissioned by the Department of External Affairs and should be published in March.

A study of the feasibility of a world disarmament campaign to increase research, education and public information about disarmament is to be discussed. Also, the Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues, popularity known as the Palme Commission, should complete its report by the end of March....

Finally, our task at UNSSOD II will not be an easy one. The search for a more secure disarmed world, which is the longing of men of goodwill everywhere, is complex and arduous. That pursuit is made no easier in a climate of fear and mistrust. Negotiations for meaningful disarmament agreements can only succeed if the protagonists will allow them to do so, and if there are adequate assurances of undiminished security for all.

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