

The Group of Experts would in no way duplicate the efforts of the Disarmament Commission; rather, it would build upon the work already accomplished by the Commission.

The mandate of the study would focus on the role of the United Nations in verification. As described above there have been a number of proposals respecting appropriate roles for the United Nations in this context, including those suggested by Canada and the Netherlands in this paper. The Group of Experts study would systematically identify existing and possible activities by the United Nations in multilateral verification and then review and assess each in terms of its merits and implications. The assessment would focus on the organizational, technical, operational, legal, and cost characteristics of each option. The report of the Group of Experts would provide specific recommendations regarding possible further action by the United Nations in this area.

In a time of severe financial restraint on the activities of the United Nations, we are all obliged to be extremely cautious in imposing new demands on the Organization's limited resources. In order to minimize disruptions to the budgetary process of the United Nations, it is suggested that the first meetings of the Group of Experts be held after January 1990. The report of the Group of Experts would be tabled at the 46th Session of the General Assembly in 1991. This schedule would permit the bulk of the study's costs to be drawn from the next United Nations financial biennium budget. In addition, the Secretary-General would be asked to undertake preparatory work during 1989 utilizing existing resources.

For the foregoing reasons, the Special Session may wish to consider making the following request to the Secretary-General:

"The Third Special Session on Disarmament requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of qualified governmental experts and making appropriate use of the capabilities of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in a consultant capacity, to undertake an in-depth study on the subject of the existing and possible activities of the United Nations in the verification of multilateral arms control and disarmament agreements. It further requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the subject to the General Assembly at its Forty-Sixth session in 1991. The Group of Experts would identify