

Government. In October 1985, Prime Minister Mulroney identified the prevention of an arms race in outer space as one of Canada's six specific objectives in the arms control and disarmament field.

In the same year the CD agreed to establish, for the first time, a subsidiary body to examine the outer space issue in the multilateral context.

While there is considerable multilateral experience in promoting peaceful cooperation in outer space, the multilateral approach to arms control in this environment is still at a pioneering stage. Moreover, it is an area in which technology continues to push ahead inexorably.

Given the complexity of the issues and the need to ensure that any actions taken on agreements concluded do indeed contribute to strengthening international security in the long term, Canada hopes the CD will pursue its task with energy and with deliberation. The existing mandate would seem to provide ample scope for much additional useful work.

I would also like to reiterate the Canadian Government's, view, recently made to the CD by our Ambassador to that body, Mr. J. Alan Beesley, that the bilateral efforts by the USA and USSR to prevent an arms race in outer space are not and must not be at cross-purposes with the multilateral efforts of the CD. The mandate of the CD's Ad Hoc Committee both complements and accurately reflects the realities concerning the bilateral USA-USSR negotiations in Geneva. We urge the USA and USSR to continue to seek agreed ways to use outer space for national security purposes in a manner consistent with international security and stability for all peoples. At the same time, arms control in relation to outer space has always had an important multilateral dimension, and we believe this dimension is gaining in importance.

Indeed, we believe this "two track" approach to the issue to be a complementary one, of crucial importance to the international consideration of an issue vital to all mankind.

I think it is fair to say that Canada has been second to none in making substantive contributions to the deliberations of the CD on this subject. We have sought to expand the existing pool of knowledge in this area through the preparation of three working papers on the outer space issue that have been tabled in the CD. These deal with the stabilizing and destabilizing characteristics of arms control agreements in outer space; with international law relevant to arms control in outer space; and with technology relevant to outer space. These papers are not meant to reflect a particularly Canadian Government viewpoint but rather to build upon the pool of information in this area and to outline the issues in a comprehensive fashion.