

session." The 40-member Conference on Disarmament to which Canada belongs is based in Geneva and is the major multilateral negotiating forum. The inability of the Conference on Disarmament, because of the consensus rule, to open up substantive discussion of this subject is a major disappointment of us. Canada supports a step-by-step approach to the realization of such a treaty, and has contributed Canadian expertise toward the development of a global seismic monitoring system.

- The maintenance and strengthening of the non-proliferation regime is critical both to stopping the spread of nuclear weapons to more countries and ensuring the safe transfer of technology and materials for the development of nuclear power systems. The Non-Proliferation Treaty, which Canada worked to uphold at the 1985 review, now numbers 131 states, making it the largest multilateral arms treaty in the world.
- At the Conference on Disarmament, Canada actively participates in the multilateral negotiations now leading to a Chemical Weapons ban. In fact, Canada chaired the ad hoc group that launched the current process. As a nation whose soldiers have suffered the toxic effect of these nefarious weapons, Canada has a special interest in ridding the world of them. We have presented to the U.N. a mechanism for detection their use in current wars.
- The prevention of an arms race in outer space is another key objective. Canada has contributed to the Conference on Disarmament's deliberations on this subject in several ways: the first substantive working paper dealing with possible stabilizing and destabilizing space-based military systems; an extensive survey of