

illustration of the fact that we can promote peace, democracy and justice even in the most troubled lands. Canada is all the more proud of its role in the Haitian crisis because it unremittently favoured multilateralism and particularly the involvement of the United Nations in resolving the crisis. On March 31, 1995, the United Nations mission in Haiti, with 6,900 police officers and troops, will officially take over from the multilateral force sent by the Government of the United States. The 100 Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers and the 500 members of the Canadian Armed Forces will play a key role in this truly multinational effort to establish the rule of law in Haiti.

Arms Control

As I said when I spoke to the UN General Assembly in September, any strategy for preventing armed conflict should involve tangible disarmament objectives. The UN is an important global institution for addressing these issues.

The most urgent arms control issue we face today is the future of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT]. The NPT is the most important non-proliferation achievement of the last 50 years. Its results are undeniable and the benefits must not be lost. Canada is therefore working very hard to achieve the indefinite extension of the NPT at the Review and Extension Conference next month. Anything less would undermine the treaty's achievements, resulting in greater regional and global instability.

I should emphasize that Canada is also active in other fora to stem the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promote nuclear disarmament. These include negotiations towards a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and efforts to begin talks on a Cut-off Convention to prohibit the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. I am pleased to announce today that at the meeting of the Disarmament Conference yesterday in Geneva, agreement was reached to initiate negotiations on the Cut-off Convention on the basis of proposals made by the Canadian Chairman, Ambassador Shannon.

While controlling the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is important, it is conventional weapons that kill and maim innocent civilians every day. One of the most difficult problems we face is the abuse of land mines. Canada wants to see the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (which now regulates the international use of land mines) expanded to include civil wars, where the majority of deaths and injuries are caused, and a strong verification mechanism.

As we said in our new Foreign Policy Statement, the Government is concerned by the continued imbalance in much of the developing world between military expenditures and spending on human development. I think we should look closer at this issue.