

the United Nations suggested the freeze would be accomplished by declaration. At the Disarmament Conference in 1985 the socialist and non-aligned countries once again advocated a nuclear freeze as a necessary prerequisite for nuclear disarmament. The West for its part preferred to emphasise the need to strengthen international measures for enforcing non-proliferation, as well the need for improved techniques of verification. Debate about the freeze focussed on two main issues: verifiability and force imbalance.

It was the latter problem which most concerned the European NATO members. In particular they pointed to the force imbalance in Europe which had been created by the deployment of Soviet SS-20 missiles.

Current Canadian Position

At the 41st session of the United Nations two resolutions calling for a nuclear freeze were presented in the General Assembly.¹ Canada voted against both resolutions.

The Canadian Government recognizes the important symbolic value of the freeze concept, but also stresses the need for significant, balanced and verifiable reductions in the level of nuclear arms. The UN resolutions made no reference to verification and did not allow for the production of fissionable material for peaceful purposes. A freeze must be accompanied by agreements between the nuclear powers in order to achieve any real progress in disarmament or arms control. It was for this reason that Canada chose rather to encourage the bilateral negotiations on nuclear arms between the United States and the Soviet Union.

¹ Resolution 41/60 E which passed with a vote of 136-12-5. Resolution 41/60 I which passed by a vote of 139-12-4.