

the 1986/87 Pledging Conference represented 10 per cent of the total pledged. Of 55 delegations at that Conference, however, only 13 made pledges. This reflects the less than enthusiastic response of the international community to the Campaign. In light of this, Canada challenges other Member States to state definitively their position on the World Disarmament Campaign. For the Campaign to succeed, a clear statement of political and financial support is required. If that support exists, Canada will continue to help make the Campaign successful. If that support is not forthcoming, Canada believes the special session should call for an assessment of the continuing viability of the World Disarmament Campaign.

16. With respect to the Department for Disarmament Affairs, Canada seeks a strengthened role for the Department. We feel the Department should be enabled to do more, e.g., developing and operating orientation programmes for NGO representatives. These programmes would serve to improve NGO understanding of the functioning of the United Nations and its role in disarmament. The Canadian practice of sending NGO representatives to the First Committee and the special sessions of the General Assembly on disarmament could be taken as an example of an approach to such an orientation programme. In the mean time, the Government of Canada will actively consider developing further programmes of the same type for the Canadian NGO community. The results and experience of these Canadian programmes will be shared with the international community in the hope that these programmes may have applications elsewhere. This proposal meets the appeal made by the Secretary-General in his address, on 31 May, to the opening meeting of the third special session:

"... for public opinion truly to have an impact on (the disarmament) process, more effective ways have to be found to reach those in the education and scientific community, the media, the arts and other walks of life so as to encourage their participation in this vitally important endeavour." (See A/S-15/PV.1.)

17. As its proposals indicate, Canada is firmly committed to a United Nations whose machinery and programmes effectively promote the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control. Progress towards this goal will require a realistic and dedicated approach which recognizes both the potential and the limitations of the United Nations. With the growing recognition that the security of the few cannot be had at the expense of the security of the many, we are confident that it will be the potential of the United Nations which is expressed by this Working Group, and not its limitations.

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