

continue to make a contribution in the future. Canada's non-proliferation and safeguards policy makes us a world leader in this important aspect of promoting the evolution of an effective non-proliferation régime, a priority of Canadian policy on arms control and disarmament.

Another example in which Canada has been involved for some years is the work on an international seismic data exchange. In working towards the objective of a comprehensive test ban I hope that the exchange can be implemented at an early date and that Canada will be a full participant from the beginning.

You have also heard about the contributions Canada has made on the difficult issues surrounding the verification of a ban on chemical weapons.

There is another subject on which Canadian expertise could be applied: arms control and outer space. Canada played an important role in the negotiations leading to the Outer Space Treaty of 1967. We have a continuing interest in developments on this issue because of our geographic location and our extensive involvement in communications satellites. The subject of arms control and outer space is now before the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva and I hope that Canada can assist in reaching a verifiable agreement in that body.

While problems of verification vary according to weapons system, there is an enormous need for increased understanding of the importance of arms control and disarmament agreements being verifiable and of the growing costs of verification. It is for this reason that Canadian research, intended originally for Canadian use, has been made available in a series of papers during the past two years to the multilateral negotiating body in Geneva. It is also the reason why the Government has continued to follow closely the proposal for an international satellite monitoring agency, put forward by France at the time of UNSSOD I. Its purpose would be to monitor compliance with the provisions of arms control and disarmament agreements. Tremendously costly, it could be a significant step in the development of international verification mechanisms. Our support in principle is tempered by the recognition that the cooperation and involvement of the two superpowers, which now have such a capability, would be a prerequisite for the successful implementation of the proposal. Since it would be designed for monitoring multilateral agreements, it could be argued that the proposal should be closely related to the successful negotiation of further agreements.

I want now to turn to the question of the relationship between disarmament and development - a subject you have been