hensive test ban, prohibition on chemical weapons, the prohibition of weapons for outer space, a verifiable ban on new weapons based on new scientific principles or new technologies, and regional force reductions under an MBFR agreement and similar accords.

Six Committee members presented

Palme Commission Final Report

The Independent Commission on Disar-

mament and Security Issues, under the

Chairmanship of Olof Palme, issued its

report on June 1, 1982. On that day,

Mr. Robert Ford, former Canadian

Ambassador to the USSR and a member

of the Commission, made an official presentation of the report to the Prime

Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable

realistic report to assist UNSSOD II in its

deliberations. There were difficulties in

constructing a report which would reflect

political realities, the idealism of so many

thinking people around the world, and so

many very differing approaches - Soviet,

American, Canadian, German, Japanese,

and Third World. It was therefore a con-

siderable achievement to get an agreed

report, above all with Soviet and Ameri-

can signatures. This happy result was in

part due to the willingness of both sides

the report are (a) that a nuclear war will

not produce any victors, and that it is an

illusion to think that a limited nuclear

war is possible; it is bound to escalate;

In a general way the main themes of

The Commission aimed at producing a

Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

to accept compromise.

their dissenting views at a press conference on the same day as the Report was tabled.

The Report and the minutes of the hearings may be purchased from the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, 45 Sacré-Coeur Blvd, Hull, Québec, K1A 0S7.

by attempting to achieve military superiority; it must be based on the concept of

The most important proposals and recommendations included:

observing SALT I and continuing the

(b) the need for parity in conventional forces in Europe at the lowest possible levels which could then lead to agreement on the withdrawal of battlefield nuclear weapons in an area up to 150 kilometres on each side of the present East-West

(d) support for Intermediate Nuclear Forces Talks:

(e) the need for a Chemical Weapon Free Zone in Europe:

(f) restrictions on the development of new weapons and other measures such as a ban on anti-satellite weapons; a call for a chemical weapons disarmament treaty, comprehensive test ban treaty:

(g) a non-proliferation treaty with universal adherence, and confidence building measures;

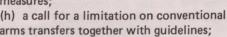
(h) a call for a limitation on conventional arms transfers together with guidelines;

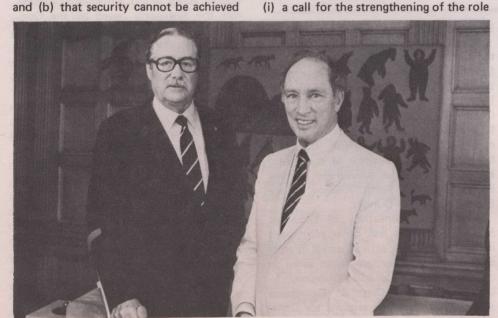
(i) a call for the strengthening of the role

mutual security.

(a) re-affirmation of the significance of SALT/START process:

(c) re-affirmation of the importance of the Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty:





Official presentation by Mr. Robert Ford to Prime Minister Trudeau of the Palme Commission Final Report.

of the U.N. Security Council and the office of the Secretary-General;

(i) improvement of peace-keeping machinery and the use of U.N. Stand-by forces and regional security arrangements: (k) the need for economic security. noting the costs of the arms race and its effect on developing countries.

In his speech at UNSSOD II, the Prime Minister referred to the significant contribution of the Palme Commission Report to public awareness and understanding of arms control and disarmament

Schiefer Report on the Alleged Use of Chemical Weapons in Southeast Asia

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan announced in Bangkok, Thailand on June 21, 1982 that Canada was submitting to the UN Secretary-General, an independent report prepared by Dr. Bruno Schiefer, Chairman of the Toxicology Group, University of Saskatchewan, on the alleged use of chemical weapons in Southeast Asia. Dr. Schiefer, recognized as one of the foremost experts on toxicology (mycotoxins) in Canada, was invited by the Department of External Affairs in February 1982 to undertake a scientific study on certain aspects of the alleged use of chemical weapons in Southeast Asia, in particular the use of mycotoxins as a lethal agent.

Canada has been concerned about the alleged use of chemical weapons in Laos and Cambodia since reports of the use of some sort of lethal or incapacitating agents began to be received from Laotian refugees in Thailand in 1976. In addition to humanitarian concerns, Canada has been concerned about the credibility of the 1925 Geneva Protocol which prohibits the use of chemical weapons. To ensure that the extensive reports of the use of chemical weapons in Southeast Asia were investigated, Canada co-sponsored a UN General Assembly resolution in 1980 which established an international group of experts to investigate these reports, and a subsequent resolution in 1981 which extended the group's mandate. In March 1981, Canada had submitted to the UN Secretary-General information volunteered by refugees in Thailand on the alleged use of chemical weapons.

Dr. Schiefer's report is based on the results of a two-week visit to Thailand in February where he held discussions with Thai government authorities, Thai