

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

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.

Palme Commission Final Report

The Independent Commission on Disarmament 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 Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

The Commission aimed at producing a 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 considerable achievement to get an agreed report, above all with Soviet and American signatures. This happy result was in part due to the willingness of both sides to accept compromise.

In a general way the main themes of 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; and (b) that security cannot be achieved

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

The most important proposals and recommendations included:

- (a) re-affirmation of the significance of observing SALT I and continuing the SALT/START process;
- (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 frontier;
- (c) re-affirmation of the importance of the Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty;
- (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

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

(j) 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 issues.

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



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