Co-operation with Regional Organizations

We are interested in the Secretary-General's suggestion for increasing co-operation with regional arrangements and organizations in functions like preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping, peacemaking and peace building. I have encouraged the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) to develop some of these mechanisms and Canada, working within the Organization of American States (OAS), remains dedicated to a return to democracy in Haiti.

There is no doubt that regional efforts in preventive diplomacy and peacemaking should be encouraged. I hope that future developments in those institutions will enable them to carry out peacekeeping operations under certain circumstances, but it is the United Nations that has the ultimate authority.

Expanding the circle of peacekeeping and peacemaking organizations may serve to reduce some of the disproportionate burden that, in the past, certain countries such as Canada have willingly assumed. Future needs, however, will require a broadening of participation by Member States.

Non-Proliferation/Disarmament Issues

Member States also have a direct responsibility to reduce the numbers and kinds of weapons available for conflict.

Last year, we took a major step to increase transparency in arms transfers, and to inhibit excessive build-ups of conventional weaponry, with the establishment of the UN Arms Register.

This year, we can take two even more important steps. This General Assembly will launch the preparations for the extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1995. An indefinite extension is the only option.

France and Russia have declared nuclear testing moratoria: the other nuclear powers -- the United States, the United Kingdom and China -- have no reason not to join them. All nuclear weapons states should observe an immediate moratorium on nuclear testing and summon up the political will and energy to negotiate a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

We are seeing some progress. After many years of difficult negotiations, our negotiators at the Conference on Disarmament have succeeded in producing a Chemical Weapons Convention that, when implemented, will ban all chemical weapons forever. I urge all Member States to join Canada as original signatories when the Convention is opened for signature in Paris next year.