

There is in the public today a puzzlement, a bewilderment, a frustration, a fear that the arms race may be out of control, that negotiations are impotent in curbing the relentless momentum of global militarism, that disarmament negotiators are not hearing the cries of anguish of those who sense that the future of humanity is threatened by nuclear peril.

The United Nations Disarmament Commission recently concluded an appraisal of the achievements made at the midway point of the Second Disarmament Decade. The answer was short: zero. Not a single substantive agreement has come out of the multi-lateral process this decade.

The military have more arms, the governments have more rhetoric, people everywhere have more frustration, and the world feels more insecure.

It is as though nations have forgotten the ringing call to sanity that the U.N. flashed around the world in 1978: "Mankind is confronted with a choice; we must halt the arms race and proceed to disarmament or face annihilation."

I don't believe in gloom and doom. Neither do I espouse mindless optimism. Rather, a frank appraisal of the complex disarmament agenda is a better route to enlightenment and hope for a future based on true human security.

This booklet, then, is designed to help Canadians who are looking deeply at the implications for our country, and the world, of a continuation of the arms race. Within government, there is room for different approaches towards the common policy of enhancing security. This is my approach.

Canada's policy on these issues has been consistent, bi-partisan and long-standing: to prevent all war, particularly nuclear war; and to pursue mutual, balanced, verifiable reductions in nuclear and conventional weapons. These goals can only be achieved through genuine negotiations. Declarations of good intentions will not do. Concrete steps are essential. That is why the confidence-building process is so important.