

I wish to reiterate the faith of the Canadian Government in the United Nations and the opportunity it offers to negotiate multi-lateral solutions to the complex problems of the law of the sea. Only if the multilateral approach fails -- and at a certain point further delay or procrastination is failure -- will my Government, and I assume others, resort to other solutions to protect fundamental national interests. The governments and peoples of the world are not prepared to wait much longer for the results of the conference. We must act quickly and in concert. If we do -- and I am convinced we can -- we shall achieve what the Secretary-General has rightly called "one of the most important conventions ever devised by the International Community".

In 1945, the founders of the United Nations, profoundly influenced by the holocaust of war, were determined that the central task of the international organization would be the maintenance of international peace and security. They devised -- so they thought -- a system for the settlement of disputes between nations without recourse to the use of force.

Thirty years later, this fundamental problem still faces the United Nations. Two crucial aspects of this problem are disarmament and peace-keeping. They were the principal themes of my address to the Assembly last year, but such is their importance that I make no apology for reverting to them.

Disarmament

Few issues before this Assembly give rise to aspirations so great or frustrations so deep as the question of disarmament.

We aspire to agreements that will check the use of force, reduce tensions and free resources for productive social and economic purposes. But our hopes are frustrated by the relentless drive towards new heights of destructive power.

Nuclear weapons exist in the tens of thousands and we are faced with the frightening possibility that they will spread to more countries. The advanced countries continue to spend enormous amounts of money on armaments of all kinds, and the military expenditures of some developing countries are rapidly increasing.

Is it any wonder that ordinary people everywhere, with deep unease and impatience, await real progress towards disarmament?

The SALT talks have been of major importance in promoting a climate of strategic stability and political *détente*. But they have not
