

slower than might have been anticipated even a year ago. Canadian priorities, however, remain unchanged. They are:

- (1) to encourage the continuation of the SALT process;
- (2) to promote the realization of a comprehensive multi-lateral test ban treaty;
- (3) to assist in the preparation of a chemical weapons convention;
- (4) to promote the evolution of an effective non-proliferation régime based on the Non-Proliferation Treaty;
- (5) to participate actively in negotiations to limit and reduce conventional forces; and
- (6) to strive, step by step, to ultimately achieve general and complete disarmament, consistent with the legitimate security needs of states.

The Final Document of the UN Special Session on Disarmament highlighted the need for greater emphasis on research, information and education programmes. The Department of External Affairs has responded in several ways. It convenes semi-annually a Consultative Group of representatives of Canadian non-governmental organizations which have a special interest in disarmament and arms control. It encourages greater research and information programmes through financial assistance from its disarmament fund. It also produces a newsletter on national and international disarmament activities which is distributed to interested groups and individuals. In addition, I have suggested that the creation of an autonomous association for arms control and disarmament would help to expand activity and raise the level of debate in Canada on these issues.

Disarmament Week is held annually from October 24-30. Initiated in 1978 after the UN Special Session on Disarmament, it is an opportunity to emphasize the importance of mobilizing public opinion world-wide in support of disarmament and to underline the objectives set forth in the Final Document. Community groups, non-governmental organizations and individuals in Canada have accepted the challenge proffered by Disarmament Week to involve the public to a greater degree in these issues, and have planned numerous projects and activities in many centres across the country. Disarmament affects all Canadians individually and collectively. For this reason alone, we must join in efforts to encourage progress towards world peace through reductions in the levels of armaments and world military spending.