

transfers should be a priority of CSCE governments. They decided to maintain a dialogue on these issues.

Such statements were paralleled in fora of which Canada is not a member.

This was followed on July 8 and 9 by a USA-initiated meeting in Paris of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to review issues related to non-proliferation and conventional

arms transfers, with emphasis on the Middle East. The five — China, France, the UK, the USA and the USSR — agreed to support the establishment of a UN arms transfer register, to develop and

observe rules of restraint for transferring arms, and to consult and exchange information about arms transfers to the Middle East. They also supported the goal of establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

Canada welcomed the outcome of the Paris meeting, which followed closely the objectives Canada has been promoting on a global basis. As the world's major arms exporters, the Security Council "Permanent Five" have a spe-

cial responsibility to prevent excessive arms build-ups. The Paris meeting made clear that they recognize and accept this responsibility.

Canada's attempts to ensure priority consideration of proliferation issues met with further success at the summit meeting of the Group of Seven leading industrialized countries held in London in mid-July. In a declaration issued on July 16, Prime Minister Mulroney and the leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the USA expressed their determination to tackle the unchecked spread of weapons.

On conventional arms, the Group of Seven (G7) pledged to work for the early adoption of a UN arms transfer register, to encourage all countries to exercise restraint in transferring arms, especially in cases of advanced technology weapons and in sales to countries and areas of concern, and to give these issues their continuing close attention.

On nuclear weapons, they agreed to work towards maintaining and reinforcing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty beyond 1995, improving the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards system and achieving Nuclear Suppliers Group measures to ensure adequate export controls on dual-use items.

The G7 also committed themselves to pursuit of a strengthened BTWC, to conclusion of a chemical weapons convention as soon as possible, and to improved control of exports that could contribute to the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons. In addition, they called on all countries to adopt the Missile Technology Control Regime guidelines for missile technology transfer.

This recent proliferation of non-proliferation declarations is encouraging and increases the likelihood of faster action to stop the spread of dangerous weapons. One of Canada's objectives in launching its February initiative was to stimulate leaders to inject political will into existing efforts to address the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and to begin efforts to curb unwarranted accumulations of conventional arms. This objective is well on its way to being reached.

## ***Recent declarations increase likelihood of faster action to stop the spread of dangerous weapons.***

On June 29, leaders of the European Community issued a declaration supporting strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, improvement of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and early agreement on a chemical weapons convention. They also advocated immediate international action to promote restraint and transparency in the transfer of conventional weapons and said they hoped to strive towards harmonization of national arms export policies.

## ***CSCE Ministers' Conclusions***

*The following are highlights from the Summary of Conclusions of the meeting of CSCE foreign ministers in Berlin on June 19 and 20.*

2. The Ministers welcomed the Republic of Albania as a participating State of the CSCE.
6. They adopted a mechanism for consultation and cooperation with regard to emergency situations.
7. They decided that the communication network, to be established under the provisions of the Vienna CSBM Document 1990, will be preferably used for all communications foreseen in the procedures in emergency situations.
9. They welcomed the establishment of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly.
15. They looked forward to a range of informal discussions and consultations on new negotiations on disarmament and confidence- and security-building open to all CSCE participating States. In this context, they requested their representatives in Vienna...to start informal preparatory consultations in September this year aimed at establishing by 1992, from the conclusion of the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting, new negotiations on disarmament and confidence- and security-building open to all participating States as set out in the Charter of Paris. They decided that formal preparatory negotiations for the new forum will be carried out at the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting.
17. In the light of the recent experience in the Gulf region, the Ministers see a need to halt the spread of weapons of mass destruction and for restraint and transparency in the transfer of conventional weapons and weapons technologies, particularly to regions of tension. This should be a priority of CSCE governments, and Ministers agreed to maintain a dialogue on these issues among CSCE countries.