



These objectives, which may appear modest at first glance, are truly critical ones in the long run. They mean that we must ensure that the debate on Article VI issues contributes in a positive manner to the overall objectives of the NPT and does not degenerate into an acrimonious debate which will only hold hostage progress in other areas of the NPT. They mean a reconfirmation of the need for nuclear weapon states, and particularly the United States and the Soviet Union, to negotiate in good faith towards the adoption of effective measures to achieve a cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and a significant reduction in nuclear arms.

Progress towards a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty has been traditionally associated with compliance on Article VI. For Canada, the achievement of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty continues to be a fundamental and abiding Canadian objective. We believe that a CTB is a concrete, realistic measure which would constitute a major step in curbing the development of new and more sophisticated nuclear weapons. It is regarded as an extremely important step towards halting both the vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons. As the UN Secretary-General stated earlier this year, 'It is of direct importance to the future of humanity to end all nuclear explosions. No other means would be as effective in limiting the further development of nuclear weapons.'...

While a review of events in the field of international security provides a checkered image of progress achieved, the situation is quite different if one turns to Articles III and IV of the Treaty. In the area of nuclear non-proliferation/nuclear cooperation, the Treaty has served the world well. Proliferation risks have largely been contained and enhanced cooperation has taken place....

Regarding Article VII, and consistent with Canada's policy of promoting an effective non-proliferation regime based on the NPT, Canada has been strongly supportive of the concept of nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZ) where they command the support of the countries in the area and promote regional and international stability. Such zones are not a fully satisfactory alternative to the ratification of the NPT by some of the countries of the areas concerned; nonetheless, in the absence of

universal or near-universal adherence to the NPT, the creation of such zones can make a significant contribution to the objective of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Canada has supported United Nations resolutions calling for such zones in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia and has welcomed the very important recent declaration of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone. Canada has also backed measures which would consolidate the establishment of a NWFZ in Latin America in accordance with the Treaty of Tlatelolco, in spite of Canadian opposition to a provision in the Treaty which allows for the explosion of nuclear devices for so-called peaceful purposes.

In this regard, under Article V, we reiterate Canada's view that the economic value of the peaceful applications of nuclear explosions remains in doubt. We believe that the independent possession of peaceful nuclear explosive devices by

non-nuclear weapon states would pose a threat to regional and international security.

Mr. President, any agreement that brings together so many diverse nations will be subject to certain strains and problems of compliance. In the international community, it is difficult to legislate security — that is what certain articles of the NPT are attempting to do. The NPT, for all its strengths and weaknesses, is still an international instrument whose credibility and applicability must be constantly monitored and nurtured. The NPT cannot be taken for granted. It is a valuable international instrument, having at once both practical and moral dimensions. The fact that countries are continuing to sign the NPT, and continuing to feel that they should sign the NPT, is a tribute to both the moral force and practical utility of the Treaty. It reflects a basic belief within the international community that proliferation is a bad thing and the absence of the NPT would have disastrous results."

NPT Conference a "Glowing Success"

Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament, Douglas Roche, discussed Canada's objectives at the NPT Conference and the results of that Conference during his appearance before the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence (SCEAND) on October 6. Following are excerpts from his address to SCEAND.

"A significant step in this direction was taken by the NPT Review Conference. In fact, it was a glowing success. While bad news is frequently its own messenger, good news often goes unnoticed, yet the review, which occurs only every five years, shows what can be achieved in multilateral diplomacy when cooperation replaces confrontation at the basic negotiating stance.

By consensus, the states attending the review reaffirmed the viability and vitality of this 130-nation treaty which prevents the spread of nuclear weapons while assuring the international community at large of the benefits of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The 1980 review

had not been able to achieve this consensus. A second perceived failure would have weakened the NPT at a time when its effectiveness at stopping nuclear weapons proliferation is vital to world security. Thus, the review reaffirmed participating nations' commitment to the NPT as essential to international peace and security. The Conference affirmed its continuing support for the treaty's objectives, which are: preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, achieving the cessation of the nuclear arms race and promoting expanded cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Canada's own objectives in the Review Conference were clearly met. Those were two: the maintenance of the NPT as a basic element of the non-proliferation regime and a reaffirmation of the purpose and provisions of the NPT. As well, a wider and enduring objective of Canadian foreign policy was also met. That is, the strengthening and enhancing of the multilateral process. Multilateralism, like an effective global non-proliferation regime, is a cornerstone of Canadian foreign policy."