
co-operation agreements with Egypt, Indonesia, Mexico and the Philippines, as well as with Sweden, the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and Australia. We're currently engaged in an initiative to enlarge co-operation to include regulatory training, the exchange of technical information, and co-operative responses to potential radiation emergencies. It's our hope that this initiative can become a model of technology transfer to strengthen nuclear co-operation with the Third World.

A realistic assessment, however, suggests that Canada has, for the most part, proceeded as far as is feasible on its own in exerting national influence to prevent a spread of nuclear weapons. It's now clear that further progress will be largely contingent upon multilateral agreements under the auspices of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The international community accomplished a significant step forward with the NPT, and we can look back with satisfaction at the fact that there are now some 115 signatories. At the same time, however, it should be recognized that the NPT is an initial treaty and that it needs to be perfected. I hope that in historical terms the NPT will be considered as a watershed, as it has provided the vehicle for a large majority of UN member countries to express formally and for the first time their total renunciation of nuclear weapons and weapons capability. I would also hope that the NPT will spawn new, more comprehensive and more truly universal treaties.

Key element
of NPT
unfulfilled

In this regard, it can't be ignored that although the NPT emphasizes the non-discriminatory transfer of peaceful nuclear technology, it also provides, under Article VI, for the rapid and effective movement towards disarmament and the de-escalation of the arms race on the part of nuclear weapons states. The fact that this key element of the NPT remains unfulfilled suggests to me that a tangible move towards disarmament on behalf of the superpowers represents the best possible means to indicate, with sincerity, their belief in the legitimacy of non-proliferation.

Accordingly, in the context of the United Nations and the IAEA, Canada is prepared to seek international consensus on the development of principles which would result in a more universal and a more effective approach to non-proliferation. Such principles should include a formal renunciation of nuclear explosive devices and an agreement to permit the safeguarding of all nuclear activities throughout the entire range of the nuclear fuel cycle as fundamental to the creation of a stable and permanent non-proliferation régime. Under such conditions, bilateral nuclear commitments could then be subsumed into a truly equitable and responsible international order.

It's my belief that the moment has arrived for genuine movement through collective institutional and policy approaches towards the realization of these objectives. If states fail to engage this challenge in a manner which is both imaginative and just, the prognosis for the uncontrolled horizontal proliferation of nuclear capabilities will remain more of a threat than an opportunity for enhanced international co-operation.
