

We should hope, however, that, after reviewing the important problems associated with efforts to negotiate an extension of the existing ban on the use of these awesome weapons, the Assembly would request the Committee on Disarmament to continue its study of all the issues involved. We believe that our efforts in the Committee on Disarmament should be concentrated on resolving what has proved to be the most intractable problem, that of international verification measures, especially in relation to those chemical elements which not only have a military potential but are in common use for commercial purposes, taking into account the useful proposal in this respect contained in the memorandum of the Group of Twelve (CCD/310).

The General Assembly of the United Nations, at its twenty-fourth session, adopted Resolution 2602 E (XXIV), which requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament:

... to work out ... a comprehensive program, dealing with all aspects of the problem of the cessation of the arms race and general and complete disarmament under effective international control, which would provide the Conference with a guideline to chart the course of its further work and its negotiations .... (1)

Canada supported this resolution and welcomed the designation of the 1970s as a Disarmament Decade, since we considered that these initiatives might serve as additional incentives during the next ten years to achieve progress on effective measures of arms control and disarmament. The Committee has since its inception accepted, as we know, as its ultimate goal the attainment of general and complete disarmament, and the renewed emphasis on this as a result of these resolutions has, I believe, produced a climate conducive to progress. The Committee has demonstrated an increasing awareness of the fact that our present concentration on urgent, specific collateral measures should be viewed as part of a pattern of progress towards our long-term objective of general and complete disarmament.

The report of the Committee on Disarmament includes a series of working papers appended to it and provides an indication of the attention which the Conference focused on the task assigned to it of developing a comprehensive program. The complexities involved, the compromises required and the necessity of assigning top priority to specific arms-control negotiations before the Committee made it impossible, however, for the last Conference to come to any clear consensus on the program issue. There was, moreover, a general feeling among delegations that the Conference should not revert to the polemical debates of the early 1960s, nor should it become bogged down in a discussion of priorities or a delineation of "successive phases".

The most constructive approach would appear to involve the identification of positive developments in the field of arms control and disarmament to date and the enumeration of specific arms-control measures which might be considered

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(1) 2602 E (XXIV).