

will then seek "intermediate limitations on nuclear tests, moving toward the final goal of the complete cessation of nuclear tests as part of an effective disarmament process." Regarding "intermediate" measures, the Soviets proposed a limit of four tests per year of no more than one kiloton each. However, an American official stated that such a low threshold could not be verified, and that tests of at least twenty to thirty kilotons were required to ensure the reliability of existing weapons.

The first round of the new talks began 9 November and ended two weeks later. The negotiators reported reaching agreement on carrying out one or two joint nuclear test explosions on each side during 1988, in order to compare monitoring methods.

Canada at the UN General Assembly

■ Canada played its usual active role in the deliberations of the First Committee of the UN General Assembly on disarmament issues this fall. The Committee passed a total of sixty-three resolutions, of which twenty-five were adopted by consensus. A date and agenda were set for the Third Special Session on Disarmament (UNSSOD III), to be held 31 May to 25 June 1988. Of thirty-eight resolutions brought to a vote, Canada voted in favour of seventeen, against nine, and abstained on twelve. Canada introduced three resolutions of its own, on chemical and bacteriological weapons (with Poland), "Verification in all its aspects," and the production of fissionable materials for weapons purposes. The first two of these were adopted by consensus, the last by a vote of 125 to 1 with six abstentions. In addition, Canada co-sponsored eleven other resolutions, ranging from the comprehensive test ban to the relationship between disarmament and development.

Disarmament and Development Conference Concludes

■ After three weeks of debate, the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development adopted a consensus final document in New York on 11 September. The

document was considered a major achievement by many delegates, as marking the first time the international community had ever drafted a common position on the subject. Canada welcomed its

Early Warning

January 19 to 29	Conference on Disarmament session on chemical weapons.
Early March	US Senate ratification vote on the INF Treaty expected.
March 7 to 18	Group of Seismic Experts meeting on verification of a comprehensive test ban.
Spring	NATO Nuclear Planning Group session

endorsement of a broadening of the concept of "security" to include its political, economic, social, humanitarian and human rights, and ecological aspects. Some delegates criticized the Conference for rejecting a proposal, supported by the USSR and Third World countries, to set up a special fund or mechanism to transfer money saved by disarmament to development aid. Western delegates argued that, while their countries continued to provide more aid than the Soviet bloc, significant reductions in military spending would have to await reduced international tension, which could be a long way off.

Chemical Weapons

■ From 3 to 4 October over one hundred representatives from forty-five countries involved in chemical weapons negotiations, including three Canadians, visited the Soviet chemical warfare centre at Shikhany, believed to be the largest of its kind in the world. They were shown a display of what Soviet officials maintained was the complete array of Soviet chemical weapons; allowed to question Shikhany workers and take photographs; and witnessed a demonstration of the destruction of chemical weapons agents. However, the Soviets refused to reveal the size of their chemical weapons stockpile (believed in the West to far exceed that of NATO), and some Western participants maintained that certain types of weapons, in-

cluding newer chemical agents, were not shown. Until last April Soviet authorities had refused to acknowledge that they possessed any chemical weapons at all.

For the first time the USSR has

also accepted longstanding invitations to visit Western chemical weapons installations. In late November, Soviet military experts visited the principal American chemical weapons centre at Tooele, Utah, and a chemical weapons destruction plant in Muenster, West Germany.

Stockholm Treaty Compliance

■ The US, UK, and USSR have all availed themselves, for the first time, of a provision in last year's Stockholm Agreement on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Europe that allows "on-demand" inspection, at short notice, of a country's military exercises by foreign observers. According to the Stockholm Agreement, signatories must invite foreign observers to all exercises of 17,000 or more troops. The purpose of the first "on-demand" inspection, conducted by the US in late August, was to verify that a Soviet exercise near Minsk, pre-announced as involving 16,000 troops and hence not requiring foreign observation, did in fact keep under the threshold of 17,000. The Soviets responded to the US request within twenty-one hours, and four US Army inspectors had arrived in Minsk within thirty-six hours, as required by the agreement. In the end they judged the exercise to be even smaller than announced. The UK was granted a similar inspec-

tion of a combined East German-Soviet exercise in East Germany from 10 to 12 September, while Soviet officers likewise inspected US maneuvers in West Germany at the end of October.

Gorbachev's Arctic Peace Zone

■ In a speech in Murmansk on 1 October, General Secretary Gorbachev proposed that the Arctic become a "zone of peace." He reiterated previous support for a nuclear weapon-free zone in Northern Europe, including an offer to withdraw several old, diesel-powered ballistic missile submarines from the Baltic. While proposing NATO/Warsaw Pact consultations on force reductions and confidence-building measures in the Baltic, North, Norwegian, and Greenland seas, he also called on "all countries concerned" to "embark on talks on the limitation and scaling down of military activity in the North as a whole, in both the eastern and the western hemispheres."

Norwegian Defence Minister Johan Holst was quoted by *Associated Press* on 2 October as describing the proposals as "an important step forward." Canadian officials appeared less enthusiastic, but still cautiously receptive. In a *Canadian Press* item of 3 October, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark was quoted as calling the proposals "interesting." He said that Canada was willing to discuss possible Arctic arms control measures with the Soviets.

Nuclear Risk-Reduction Centres

■ On 15 September the US and USSR signed an agreement to establish "nuclear risk-reduction centres" in their national capitals. Each country will staff its own centre, intended mainly to transmit pre-notification of ballistic missile launches under the 1971 Accident Measures and 1972 Incidents at Sea agreements. It is thus not meant to duplicate the work of the existing "Hot Line," although making use of similar high-speed satellite communications with a facsimile capability enabling the direct transmission of charts, graphs, and maps. □

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