

few months illustrate the need for a just and permanent solution which assures the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to a homeland in the West Bank and Gaza, and the right of Israel to exist in security and peace. Important proposals of such a solution have recently been made; the US proposals of September 1 in particular offer opportunities for progress which should be vigorously pursued.

**Other tension  
areas**

Other arenas of conflict continue to contribute to the generally high level of international tension. Events in Poland remain an object of our particular attention, not only because of concern for the basic rights and freedoms of the Polish people, but because of serious implications for stability in the heart of Europe.

In Afghanistan and Cambodia, we witness agonizing, protracted, and deplorable military occupations which are in sharp contradiction with the aims and ideals of this organization and its Charter. The Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, and the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia, continue to violate the sovereignty of their victims and to ignore resolutions adopted by this Assembly. Once again this year, resolutions are before this Assembly on Afghanistan and Cambodia; I urge all member states to support those resolutions.

The Korean Peninsula has long been an area of tension and concern. We are encouraged, however, by the proposals made earlier this year by the President of the Republic of Korea seeking dialogue and reconciliation without conditions, and we hope for the greater integration of the Peninsula into the international community.

The extent to which local or regional conflicts draw their energy from mutually-antagonistic ideological systems is also cause for considerable concern. In recent years, the breakdown of *détente* and an increasing anxiety over the unpredictability of events have fuelled public fears of nuclear war. Our peoples fear that everything is at risk: the economic and technological systems which sustain us, the political and social systems which underpin them, and the very biosphere which permits the existence of life itself.

**Arms  
control and  
disarmament**

The world has high hopes for the second United Nations Special Session on Disarmament. When the session ended without having reached final agreement on a comprehensive program of disarmament, there was much disappointment and frustration. However, a disservice is done to the Special Session, and to the UN as an institution, if it is simply dismissed as a failure. Of course the results were disappointing. But then, the expectations of many were probably unrealistically high given the prevailing international climate. Moreover, in this climate, it is essential that the campaign for nuclear disarmament be waged at the negotiating table. My country strongly supports the present negotiations in Geneva to limit and reduce the level of nuclear arms.

Canada has chosen to contribute to the arms control and disarmament process by concentrating on the vital issue of verification. We are doing this through participating