

regions in Southeast Asia. We trust that the report of the Experts Group will contribute to the development of procedures by which confidence can be developed and maintained in existing agreements, thereby contributing to the conclusion of future agreements.

Outer space

Another positive development in the Committee on Disarmament was, for the first time, its consideration of the subject of arms control related to outer space. As a contribution to the task of defining the issues, Canada tabled a working paper. In this committee during the past two years and at the second Special Session on Disarmament, we have drawn attention to the urgency of addressing the development of new weaponry for use in outer space as well as the inadequacies of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967. Quite apart from the inherent danger that arms competition could bring, there is the additional danger that such a competition could be destabilizing....

I have been necessarily selective in illustrating the range of concerns that are before the international community. There has been a number of significant developments in 1982. These I have discussed. I have not discussed, but would nonetheless like to draw attention to, the United Nations study on conventional disarmament. Bearing in mind that at least 80 per cent of the world's military expenditures are on conventional arms, this is also a subject of fundamental importance to us all.

UNSSOD II

I would like to conclude by referring to the second Special Session on Disarmament. Many have already commented on the results of UNSSOD II. Many have expressed their disappointment at the outcome. Yet, the second Special Session has shown the central role and importance of the United Nations in the international dialogue on arms control and international security matters. This dialogue has been maintained and, through the world disarmament campaign, will more than ever involve international public opinion. At UNSSOD II, the consensus of the international community was renewed that the objectives set down at the first Special Session for the continuation of the arms control and disarmament process had bridged not only the divisions between East and West, but also divisions between North and South. The preservation of consensus on our commonly shared goals, I believe, was a major accomplishment. We might, therefore, look to the future, certainly with a good measure of sobriety, but also with confidence that we can move toward the accomplishment of a number of essential tasks before us.

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