



50 000 nuclear weapons in the world. Their relationship, as is obvious, affects everyone. It is in the interests of everyone to help improve the entire East-West relationship and, as the UN Secretary-General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, said in his acceptance speech last Friday, to 'demand of the governments of states which possess nuclear weapons that they reflect upon their responsibility to their peoples and to the planet itself and pursue policies that will lead to the elimination of these weapons.' It used to be said that history will be the judge of one's actions. But, in what we are discussing here, there will be no history to write in a non-future for human life if the means to destroy the human race, now in the possession of the two superpowers, should ever be unleashed.

The role of the United Nations in disarmament is to construct a viable framework of multilateral progress so as to enhance the prospect of major bilateral agreements. More attention should be paid in this Committee to consensus resolutions with as much substance as possible, rather than merely increasing the number of resolutions. At the 1976 session, there were 23 resolutions, eight of them consensus. Ten years later, in 1985, there were 66 resolutions, 20 by consensus. The growth of non-consensus resolutions, many of which cancel one another and split apart the Committee, is a dubious achievement and a complete puzzlement to the outside world. Let us not forget that the Final Document of the First Special Session on Disarmament, which remains the yardstick by which we measure progress, was a consensus agreement. Important advice has been offered by last year's Chairman, Ambassador Alatas of Indonesia, to form a small working group to attempt rationalization of the Committee's work.

What is needed to reinvigorate the concept of collective security, including arms control, is not a new structure or set of principles; we have a perfectly adequate framework for peace already in place in the form of the UN and its Charter. What needs to be done is to use it effectively...."



*First Committee meeting in plenary during its 1986 session.*

UN Photo 168935

## **Canadian-Sponsored Verification Resolution Adopted at United Nations**

*The Department of External Affairs issued the following communiqué on November 14.*

"The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that again this year, a Canadian-sponsored resolution on the role of verification in arms control agreements was adopted by consensus in the United Nations First Committee, which deals with arms control and disarmament and international security questions. The success of the Canadian-initiated resolution follows upon that of 1985, when Canada successfully promoted the first-ever United Nations resolution recognizing the importance of verification of compliance with arms control and disarmament agreements.

Mr. Clark said that the 1986 resolution, entitled 'Verification in all its aspects,' attracted even greater support among UN member states this year, with twice the number of co-sponsors as previously, including representatives from the Western states, Eastern Europe and the neutral and non-aligned nations.

Mr. Clark emphasized that the resolution will give further impetus to the con-

sideration of verification by the United Nations, by referring the subject to the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC), a deliberative body that meets annually at the United Nations to consider a limited number of arms control and disarmament items. The UNDC is expected to draw up principles, provisions and techniques to encourage the inclusion of adequate verification provisions in arms control and disarmament agreements, and to consider ways in which United Nations member states may play a larger role in the field.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs noted that Canada's success with the verification resolution is in keeping with the Government's emphasis on the role of verification contained in the Canadian Programme of Action for the remaining half of the Disarmament Decade, which focuses on practical solutions to arms control and disarmament problems. As part of this Programme, the Government provides \$1 million annually to the Verification Research Unit of the Department of External Affairs. He said that the verification resolution also reflects the strong support of the international community for Canada's continuing efforts in this critical area."