

Canada believes that work to define precisely the issues involved in a convention prohibiting the production of fissionable materials for weapons purposes (popularly known as a "FIZZ ban"), should begin as soon as possible, perhaps by an appropriate group of experts.

Recognizing that regional insecurity fosters the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, Canada is involved in processes aimed at reducing tensions and enhancing mutual confidence in several regions, including the Middle East and South Asia. Canada has supported nuclear weapon free zones in Latin America and the South Pacific, and favours the development of such zones elsewhere.

Canada's nuclear non-proliferation strategy is a long-term, multi-faceted one that demands considerable effort and patience. It aims at progressively creating a body of international law that will, over time, result in the elimination of nuclear weapons. There is, regrettably, no quick way to end the nuclear threat. In 1978, then-Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau enunciated a "strategy of suffocation" at the first United Nations Special Session on Disarmament. Among other things, he called for the conclusion of a CTBT and a FIZZ ban. The 1993 session of the UN General Assembly saw, for the first time, the adoption by consensus of resolutions on both of these topics. It took 15 years and a sea change in international relations to bring Mr. Trudeau's agenda to the table. We are, as it were, only at the end of the beginning.

Canada Criticizes Chinese Test

Canada expressed deep concern and profound disappointment at China's detonation of a nuclear device at its testing facility in Xinjiang in early October. By conducting a test on the eve of negotiations for a comprehensive test ban treaty, China has failed to demonstrate the leadership that is essential on the part of nuclear powers in international non-proliferation efforts. Canada has on numerous occasions urged China not to engage in nuclear testing. We continue to call on China to join all other countries in ceasing nuclear testing immediately and to contribute positively to negotiation of a CTBT.

CWC Moves Closer to Implementation



Numbers of destroyed R 400 binary chemical weapon bombs being verified by UNSCOM inspectors in Iraq. LCol Jim Knapp of DND is on the left.

As of November 30, 151 countries had signed the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Only four had ratified the Convention, a number that will have to increase dramatically to reach the minimum 65 necessary for the Convention to enter into force as early as January 1995. At the Hague, the CWC Preparatory Commission is increasingly active as it continues to build the foundations of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The Preparatory Commission has held four plenary sessions and several meetings of experts groups, studying different aspects of the practical application of the Convention. Groups have discussed issues related to verification, including equipment requirements and the procedures for challenge inspection, as well as the conversion of chemical factories and security procedures.

The Preparatory Commission will see a rapid expansion during 1994 to ensure a complete transition to the OPCW. Canada has increased its participation on the Commission by naming Mr. Ian Mundell of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade as its representative. Mr. Mundell will be joined in the new year by a counsellor specializing in technical questions. This permanent delegation demonstrates the importance Canada attaches to efforts to eliminate CW.

One of the most important elements of the CWC is the requirement for a national authority in each State Party. In Canada, the Authority will be responsible for coordination among the chemical and pharmaceutical industry, the relevant government departments and the OPCW. Its functions will include the following:

- (with the aid of Statistics Canada) collecting and compiling statistics on the Canadian chemical industry and transmitting these to the OPCW;
- supporting all routine and challenge inspections by OPCW personnel;
- distributing in Canada information provided by the OPCW;
- advising the Canadian delegation to the OPCW;
- participating in technical meetings of the OPCW; and
- ensuring liaison with the Canadian chemical industry.

The National Authority will begin operating during 1994 to prepare for CWC entry into force. The Authority will have to undertake a program to inform Canadian industry of the implications of the CWC. The impact of challenge and routine inspections, particularly on the protection of production patents, is of concern to industry. A series of consultations will enable businesses to be involved in the procedure of implementing the CWC in Canada.