

based on a common understanding of security. The debate was another example of the conflicting approaches of East and West, North and South, superpowers and the powerless, old powers and aspiring ones to armament, development and security. The conference offered no solutions to those conflicts.

The Conference concluded that disarmament and development could be related through security. Some nations, however, continued to claim that there was no relationship. Some felt that the inclusion of security was central to the debate and a major step forward. Others saw this inclusion as excessive or out of place. Still others saw the inclusion of security in the relationship as a diversion, distortion and an attack on the UN Charter.

The absence of the United States, the world's largest military spender, largest economy and largest (in dollar terms) development assistance contributor undermines the claim that an international consensus has been reached on the link between disarmament and development. The absence of the United States from the debate and from participation in the drafting of the Final Document of the conference also undermines the real significance and value of that final statement.

#### CANADA: HELPFUL FIXER?

Canada's approach to the conference, according to Peggy Mason, then a senior aide to External Affairs minister Joe Clark, was damage control.

We used our credibility to try to be realistic and find consensus among hard line West and Non-aligned positions. The conference could have resulted in no agreement. That would have removed the disarmament-development relationship from the international agenda and could have further divided the international community. The conference kept the concept alive and kept it on the international agenda. In that sense we see New York as a success.<sup>69</sup>

Former Disarmament Ambassador Douglas Roche was more enthusiastic. He saw the conference as a success and believes that Canada played a useful, helpful role in reaching a consensus on a relationship between disarmament, development and security. Ambassador Roche re-iterated that disarmament and development "are the two pillars

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<sup>69</sup> From an interview, April 1988, Ottawa.