

of MBFR within the Atlantic Alliance and has played a significant role in the formulation of Alliance policy in this area. Canadian interest in MBFR resulted from a general desire to increase world security through a reduction of the tension inherent in armed confrontation, as well as from a recognition that the security of Canada is inseparable from that of Western Europe. However, Canada recognizes that, to be successful, force reductions in Europe (as in all successful arms control agreements) must promote stability and must, therefore, be carried out in such a way that they will not operate to the detriment of the security of any country. At the end of 1974 the negotiations were continuing in Vienna.

Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD)

While SALT is of a bilateral character and MBFR involves the countries of NATO and the Warsaw Pact, multilateral discussions, including non-aligned countries, have been taking place regularly in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD), which meets in Geneva and of which Canada is a member. The Conference is concerned with those arms control and disarmament issues which are of wide concern to the international community and where adherence to agreements is sought from the largest number of countries. The conference and its predecessor, the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee (ENDC), have been responsible for negotiating several multilateral arms control agreements, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Though not strictly speaking a United Nations body, the CCD reports to the UN General Assembly and its deliberations and proposals are considered by the Assembly in its general debate on disarmament in the fall of each year.

Nuclear testing and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

In the CCD and in the UN General Assembly disarmament debates the testing and proliferation of nuclear weapons have been a continuing preoccupation of many countries. Canadian and international concern about continued nuclear testing was heightened during 1974 because all five nuclear powers carried out nuclear tests during the year and India exploded a nuclear device underground. The U.S. and U.S.S.R. pursued negotiation of a partial or threshold underground test ban, under which the two countries would agree not to carry out nuclear weapons tests over a certain yield. Canada expressed the hope that the nuclear powers would continue to move further toward a comprehensive ban.

Heightened concern was expressed by Canada in the CCD and General Assembly over the dangers of a further proliferation of nuclear weapon states. There were many factors to cause anxiety: the expansion of existing nuclear arsenals, the continued conflict and tension in several regions of the world, the demands of some non-nuclear weapon states to have independent capacities for applying nuclear explosions to peaceful purposes notwithstanding the military potential of developing such nuclear explosive technology, and the likelihood of a large increase in international transfers of nuclear materials and technology to meet world energy shortages. For these reasons Canada argued strongly in the CCD and the UN General Assembly and in consultations with other countries for stronger support for the Non-Proliferation Treaty and for greater co-operation between countries supplying and importing nuclear materials and technology to ensure that such transfers would be under more effective safeguards and would serve only peaceful, non-explosive purposes. In the General Assembly, Canada supported resolutions calling for reductions of nuclear arsenals, the halting of all nuclear weapons