

fact is that, although countries such as Canada have been prepared to adopt rigorous measures at the national level, the international non-proliferation system can be implemented effectively only through a broad collective approach involving nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon, industrialized and developing, exporting and importing nations — all of whom share a common interest in avoiding the dangers inherent in nuclear proliferation.

**Comprehensive
test ban**

As in the case of both SALT and international efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation system, there is also some basis for optimism with regard to the long-sought goal of a comprehensive test ban (CTB). Year after year, in this Assembly, the immense majority of member states have insisted on the importance of achieving such a treaty. Certainly we can feel particularly encouraged that serious formal negotiations have indeed begun involving all three of the nuclear-weapon states upon which the onus rests, as original parties to the Partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963, to undertake such negotiations.

The views of Canada on this question have been repeated time and again. We have expressed the view that in this area it was incumbent upon the two major nuclear powers to set an example by agreeing to end their nuclear tests for a determined period of adequate duration, even if other nuclear-weapon powers did not immediately join such an agreement. The recent announcement by Foreign Minister Gromyko at this session that the Soviet Union was now prepared to envisage stopping tests along with the United States and Britain represents a welcome development in the Soviet position, particularly so far as it means that, as we have long advocated, progress on a definitive cessation of tests need not await participation by all nuclear-weapon states.

There are clearly difficult hurdles to be surmounted, involving problems such as verification, the scope of the agreement and the conditions for its entry into force. The pursuit of solutions to these problems will require time. In the seismological working group of the Geneva Disarmament Conference, Canada and other countries have already invested a great deal of technical effort concerning the contribution international co-operation in the exchange of seismological data can make to easing the verification problem. Canada welcomes the fact that the principle of such a data-exchange seems to be accepted by the participants in the negotiations. Moreover, we have already stated in the Geneva Conference that, in view of the lack of any convincing way of ensuring that so-called peaceful nuclear explosions do not provide weapons-related benefits, a comprehensive test ban should prohibit all nuclear explosions. Surely the utility of peaceful nuclear explosions is sufficiently doubtful that such uses of nuclear-explosive energy should not be allowed to impede the achievement of an objective to which this Assembly has already assigned the highest priority.

We trust that this essential trilateral stage of the negotiations will be carried out successfully within a reasonable period so that the Geneva Disarmament Conference will be able to begin the multilateral phase of negotiation of a treaty. We believe that such a treaty should be adhered to on the broadest possible basis in order to address the proliferation problem in both its vertical and horizontal aspects.
