

(d) an agreement to limit and then progressively reduce military spending on new strategic-nuclear-weapon systems.

All these measures had been proposed before. What was new was the proposal that they be interlocking or mutually reinforcing. It should also be observed that Mr. Trudeau did not propose unilateral action but the negotiation of verifiable agreements.

When the strategy of suffocation was put forward, the conclusion of SALT II and a comprehensive test ban treaty appeared very likely. Unfortunately, although SALT II was signed in 1979. President Carter did not press the Senate to ratify it because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December of 1979. The Comprehensive Test Ban trilateral negotiations were recessed in November 1980.

Since UNSSOD I the validity of the strategy of suffocation has been reaffirmed repeatedly, not least during the foreign policy debate in the House of Commons last June. In the less propitious international atmosphere today, special Canadian emphasis has been placed on the desirability of early resumption of the Soviet-American dialogue on the limitation and reduction of nuclear weapons. In the light of the resumption of that dialogue, it is hoped that the nuclear-weapon states will give further consideration to the elements of the strategy of suffocation as a means to control and arrest the production of new strategic systems.

**Need for
information**

In recent years there has been increased realization of the need for research and public information activities. Indeed, this is one of the major achievements of UNSSOD I. In the past three years the government has devoted much more attention to this aspect of policy. The creation of the position of Ambassador for Disarmament was part of that process, as has been the convening of a Consultative Group of Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs, the publication of the *Disarmament Bulletin* and the establishment of a modest disarmament fund to assist research publication and conferences.

The beneficial effects of this change have included a greater involvement of individuals outside of government in such ventures as UN disarmament studies, and a growing awareness in Canada of areas of Canadian expertise. In this connection, I am pleased that this committee will be examining the Canadian role and contribution in two technical areas. First there are the discussions within the CD aimed at the development of an international seismic data exchange system. This would be part of the international verification provisions of an eventual nuclear test ban treaty. Then there are the issues involved in negotiating a treaty to ban chemical weapons. Canadian expertise in defence against the use of chemical weapons has enabled Canada to make a widely respected contribution.

UNSSOD II will be meeting at a time of considerable international tension, heightened recently by the introduction of martial law in Poland. Lack of interna-