

limit and then progressively to reduce military spending on all new strategic nuclear weapons systems, subject to the proper verification procedures. Even if at the present moment concrete steps toward implementation of the whole strategy may be premature, nevertheless they can and should be studied, either individually or as a part of a concerted approach. The Special Session has already commissioned a somewhat similar study on disarmament and international security. We are also looking forward to the recommendations of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board concerning a United Nations studies program. We would expect that a part of this program would include the constructive proposal by Sweden for a study of nuclear weapons systems. Such a study would provide a further opportunity to examine the kind of approach proposed by Canada.

Clearly, balanced reductions of military expenditures in a bilateral, regional or even worldwide context would also have considerable benefits. The development of a standardized system of reporting could open the way to the possibility of creating measures for the reduction of military expenditures. We ought to consider the possibility of multilateral discussions on how and in what fields of military spending these reductions could be implemented. Necessary conditions for progress would be greater willingness to make information available and the need for adequate verification. I must here express disappointment that support for a pilot study of a standardized reporting system has been limited so far to a very small number of countries. Without the participation of countries from different geopolitical groups, including all nuclear weapons states, any such test will be of limited value.

The negotiation of a treaty on chemical weapons has been given high priority by this Assembly for many years. Intensive bilateral discussions are going on between the USSR and the USA to produce, as requested, a joint initiative for submission to the Conference on Disarmament. We understand that progress is being made, but that it may take some time before the key elements of a treaty can be tabled in the Committee on Disarmament by their two co-sponsors. We would like to express here the strong hope that, when the Committee meets, it will start work on areas where there is already a large measure of agreement, such as the scope of a future treaty, whether or not the bilateral negotiations are complete. It is obvious that there will be considerable work to be done before we begin the negotiation of a multilateral treaty on chemical weapons. We believe that the Committee on Disarmament could usefully begin this task by establishing a working group that, for example, could deal with the definition of chemical agents.

2. PEACEKEEPING

On November 30, 1978 the Representative of Canada, Mr. Maurice Dupras, M.P., delivered the Canadian statement in the Special Political Committee of the General Assembly on "the comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects". He spoke about the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the peacekeeping and "peacemaking" process. Mr. Dupras also touched on the relatively limited number of countries in the peacekeeping club, the question of financing, other practical measures to improve peacekeeping operations and a draft resolution supported by Canada. Portions of the Canadian Representative's statement follow: