

PREFACE

The United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) is continuing its consideration of the agenda item "Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N", which it began at its 1997 session. Since the conclusion of the UNDC's work in May 1997, there have been several notable developments.

These developments, discussed to some extent in this paper, underline the growing focus of the international community on practical disarmament measures. In addition to the above institutional activities associated with the United Nations, there have been important developments closer to the field.

The following report has been prepared as background for the discussions on the subject of consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures at the 1998 session of the UNDC. It is being made available to assist officials and researchers in their work on this subject, as part of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's policy to share the results of independent research undertaken by the Verification Research Program.

The views presented in this report do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Canada or of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
April 1998

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade wishes to acknowledge the work performed concerning this report under contract by Ms. Peggy Mason of the Canadian Council for International Peace and Security, Ottawa, Ontario and Ms. Shannon Selin, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia.