

-- Finally, to those nuclear weapons states which insist on remaining outside the Treaty, we strongly suggest that they follow the example already set by the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union and to note that the security and sovereignty of these nations has in no way been compromised -- on the contrary, it has been enhanced.

The efforts of Canada and other nations in attracting new adherents to the Treaty has already had some success -- there are now 128 signatories with every indication of other nations signing in the near future. Whatever the numerical success of this exercise, it has the additional benefit of demonstrating to non-signatories that Parties to the NPT believe in the intrinsic merits and value of the non-proliferation régime offered by the Treaty.

Some criticisms of the NPT are not unfounded. Any agreement that brings together so many diverse nations will be subject to certain strains and problems of compliance. In the international community it is difficult to legislate security -- that is what certain articles of the NPT are attempting to do. The NPT, for all its strengths, is still a fragile international instrument whose credibility and applicability must be constantly monitored and nurtured. The NPT cannot be taken for granted.