

WE CAN AND WILL ACT THOROUGHLY AND COMPREHENSIVELY TO MEET OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS RESPECT.

OUR EXPERTS DURING THEIR FOUR PREPARATORY MEETINGS HAVE DONE EXCELLENT SERVICE IN IDENTIFYING THE RANGE OF AMENDMENTS THAT ARE NECESSARY. AN EFFECTIVE DETECTABILITY STANDARD, CONVERSION OF INVENTORIES TO SELF-NEUTRALIZING AND/OR SELF-DESTRUCTING LANDMINES, SEVERE LIMITATIONS ON THE USE OF SO-CALLED "DUMB MINES", AND CONTROLS ON TRANSFERS ARE SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE. BUT THERE ARE TWO AMENDMENTS WHICH, IN CANADA'S OPINION, ARE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.

THE FIRST IS THE EXTENSION OF THE SCOPE OF PROTOCOL II TO INCLUDE INTERNAL CONFLICTS. WHY? BECAUSE IT IS THESE CONFLICTS, REGRETTABLY, WHICH HAVE THE MOST AFFECT ON CIVILIAN POPULATIONS WORLDWIDE. IT IS IN THOSE CONFLICTS THAT LAND MINES ARE CAUSING THE GREATEST CIVILIAN SUFFERING. IF OUR PROTOCOL CAN NOT BE AMENDED TO APPLY TO SUCH CONFLICTS AS WELL AS TO INTERSTATE WARS IT WILL BE SEVERELY LIMITED IN ITS EFFECTIVENESS; WE WILL HAVE FAILED TO ENSURE ITS "PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT"; AND, FRANKLY, WE WILL BE EXPOSED TO RIDICULE BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

THERE ARE SOME WHO FEAR EXTENDING THE SCOPE TO INTERNAL CONFLICTS WILL OPEN THE DOOR TO LIMITS ON STATE SOVEREIGNTY OR TO INTERFERENCE IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THIS CONCERN SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED; BUT IT SHOULD ALSO NOT BE TAKEN TO AN EXTREME AT WHICH IT WOULD NEUTRALIZE OUR EFFORTS. STATES PARTIES MUST BE PREPARED TO MOVE FORWARD IN THIS REGARD.

IT IS FOR THESE REASONS THAT CANADA STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF THE AMENDMENT FOR ARTICLE 1 PUT FORWARD IN THE