

intensive negotiations on the text of a convention. Canada's concern with the need to eliminate chemical warfare is long-standing. It goes back to World War I when Canadian forces were subjected to the first massive gas attack. Since then, technological developments have made chemical weapons, as events in South East Asia in recent years have unfortunately demonstrated, even more pernicious. It would be a real achievement if a draft convention on chemical weapons could be agreed upon by the end of 1984.

We recognize the absolute necessity of verification if we are going to make real progress in international disarmament and arms control negotiations. Since World War II, Canada has attached special importance to the development of international verification mechanisms and has assigned a high priority to research in this area. We have been making available increased funding for research which will help in the technical and practical aspects of verification. We hope that by sharing the results of our work through the Committee on Disarmament, we shall make a real contribution to the Committee's effectiveness.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Multilateral institutions face the same challenges in the economic as in the political sphere. We have started to meet the challenge. International co-operation has been strengthened through the most intensive round of high-level economic consultations in several years. The series of meetings beginning with the IMF and IBRD meeting in Toronto in September last year, moving on to the first GATT Ministerial meeting in ten years, and then to the New Delhi Non-Aligned and Williamsburg Summits, and to UNCTAD VI, has been exhausting but worthwhile.

These consultations have encouraged mutually-reinforcing national action in a number of sectors. There has been a welcome drop in inflation and nominal interest rates. In the debt area, we have seen an outstanding co-operative effort in handling major simultaneous reschedulings. The IMF has performed with vigour and resilience. Developing countries have adopted courageous adjustment programs to restore their payments equilibrium. International financial institutions and bilateral donors have kept open the flow of resources for development. The GATT Ministerial Meeting compelled governments to take a hard look at their own behaviour and elicited renewed commitments to the open multilateral trading system. At the Williamsburg Summit, the major Western nations