

be agreed upon is to have any meaning at all."

Despite the fact that the Amendment Conference was unable to conclude with a consensus declaration or decision, I believe that the exercise was not a waste of time. The Conference provided an opportunity for a thorough and focused discussion of the CTBT issue and, in that regard, clarified the positions of a wide range of states on the issue. The deliberations should facilitate the Geneva Conference on Disarmament's consideration of a CTBT at its current session, which began shortly after the close of the Amendment Conference.

Canada regards the Conference on Disarmament as the appropriate multi-lateral forum to address the CTBT issue. Unlike the PTBT (to which France and China are not parties), all five nuclear-weapon states are represented in the Conference on Disarmament and there is agreement among all members to continue to work towards a CTBT in that forum. ■

Canada's Opening Statement to PTBT Amendment Conference

The following are extracts from the statement delivered by Ambassador for Disarmament Peggy Mason to the PTBT Amendment Conference in New York on January 10.

Prime Minister Mulroney has indicated the conclusion of a CTBT as one of six fundamental Canadian arms control and disarmament objectives. Canada's co-sponsorship of an annual United Nations General Assembly resolution entitled "Urgent need for a CTBT" reflects the priority that my government attaches to this issue...

Canada has traditionally viewed a ban on nuclear testing as an important means of stifling the development of new weapons that might have a destabilizing effect on international security. Not all new weapons and sys-

tems have such a negative impact. Nonetheless, as we experienced during the Cold War, an unbridled competition among nuclear-weapon states to develop new weapons breeds suspicion and uncertainty and detracts from efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament.

Fortunately, the nuclear arms race, particularly in the context of the United States and the Soviet Union, is of a less alarming nature today than just a few short years ago. To their credit, the superpowers have embarked on a course of intensive negotiations which has led to the precedent-setting INF Treaty and, we expect, they will soon conclude a START treaty that will substantially reduce their arsenals of long-range nuclear weapons.

The United States and Soviet Union have committed themselves to follow up the implementation of a START agreement with negotiations on a START II treaty that would see further cuts to their stocks of strategic nuclear weaponry, and to hold broad discussions on enhancing strategic stability. Equally encouraging is the commitment of the two sides to commence negotiations in the very near future on short-range nuclear forces. Bilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament have thus acquired considerable momentum. This process promises to continue to diminish and, we hope, permanently remove the threat of nuclear annihilation that for years loomed as a result of the confrontational atmosphere that was characteristic of the Cold War.

These developments, in my delegation's view, are most welcome and Canada urges both sides to persevere in their efforts to negotiate further deep cuts in their nuclear arsenals. However, these historic achievements do not obviate the need for a CTBT. The nuclear arms race cannot be definitively ended as long as states continue to develop and deploy, in an unregulated fashion, new nuclear weapons. A CTBT would make a significant contribution in this regard.

In addition to impeding the nuclear arms race, a CTBT would make a significant contribution towards discouraging the horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons. Conducting nuclear

tests is an important element in any state's efforts to achieve a nuclear weapons capability. The conclusion of a CTBT with widespread, if not universal adherence, would represent an additional pillar of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. In a world where a number of non-nuclear-weapon states have yet to forego the nuclear weapon option in any binding international instrument, the value of a CTBT in this regard is, in Canada's view, significant.

Concern for the environmental effects of nuclear testing played a decisive role in the negotiation of the Partial Test Ban Treaty. Underground testing does not represent the same hazard of radioactive fallout as did atmospheric testing. Nonetheless, in an era when all citizens of our planet must be aware of the hazards and irresponsibility of contaminating our environment, this aspect of nuclear testing is one that cannot be dismissed. Nuclear testing in unusually fragile environments raises particular concern. The conclusion of a CTBT is the only way to remove categorically this potential environmental threat.

Canada, like many other countries, has regretted that progress towards the goal of a CTBT has, for a number of years, been very slow and painstaking.



Ambassador for Disarmament Peggy Mason.