

The Economist 6 Jun 98: "Bombs, Gas and Microbes" (23-5). - concise view of current world disarmament/control moves against weapons of mass destruction. **NPT**:186 in; India, Pakistan, Israel, Brazil, Cuba outside. 1997 inspection protocol so far binds few. Trade control: **Zangger Committee** and **Nuclear Suppliers' Group**. **CTBT** (1996): 149 signed; 13 ratified, with major holdouts. Fissile-materials cut-off held up in UN. **CWC** (1997): 168 signed; 110 ratified, again major holdouts; chemical weapons outlawed and destroyed; trade limits; short-notice inspections. **BWC** (1972): 130+ ratified; biological/toxin weapons prohibited but no built-in checks. "Spread of weapons technology seems inexorable...[so hit] roots of regional disputes".

Jacques Fomerand, "UN Conferences: Media Events or Genuine Diplomacy?" in Global Governance Vol.2/No.3 (Sep-Dec 1996). - dealing with a controversial subject, essay concludes that while UN costs are small, the massive exchanges of information can play important clarifying roles, and move the global consensus and action forward.

David P. Forsythe, "Human Rights and Foreign Policy in the Next Millennium" in International Journal Vol.LIIII/No.1 (Winter 1997-8). - while article stresses US foreign policy, US human rights-related perspectives and actions remain pivotal. Author sees both driven by "exceptionalism": "belief in the exceptional freedom and goodness of American people", reflected in either exemplary isolation or moral activism. Personal civil rights are stressed; few UN texts enacted. Recent US activism: support for UN human rights peacekeeping and criminal courts. More progress likely, with backing of liberal bloc and Russia, and illiberal states such as Iran put on the defensive.

Robert Fowler, Louise Frechette, Geoffrey Pearson, Harald von Rieckhoff, Gregory Wirick, David Carment, Kenneth Bush, Roy Culpeper, "The UN System: 50th Anniversary Review" in Big Enough to be Heard: Canada Among Nations 1996 (Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1996). - eight essays, mainly from global viewpoint, on UN's: credibility and finances; peace/security role; adaptability; Security Council change; reform proposals; peacemaking correctives; NGO roles; IFIs.

Louise Frechette, The John Holmes Memorial Lecture, Americas Society, New York, 21 Jan 93. - a thoughtful look at the role and future of the UN system as seen by the Canadian Government at the time of this prestigious lecture.

Alexander L.George & Jane E.Holl, The Warning-Response Problem and Missed Opportunities in Preventive Diplomacy (New York: Carnegie Corporation, 1997). - Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict report relates to weaknesses/improvements in preventive intelligence and policy reaction. Authors note key intelligence role in giving timely and accurate warning of potential crises but suggest may be **no policy response** if: stakes low; ambiguity; too complex; past errors; overload; politics. **Actions** may include: seek more facts; less vulnerable; commitments up; dialogue; lower costs;