

4. The 1985 Canadian paper submitted to the Disarmament Commission suggested that the United Nations was overextending its limited resources and should, instead, aim at accomplishing successfully a few important tasks. After a discussion of detailed steps which could be taken, Canada listed six main recommendations:

- (1) A sharper focus on top priority issues;
- (2) Strong practical support for the disarmament efforts of the Disarmament Commission, the Secretariat and related United Nations bodies which would enhance the negotiating and deliberative processes and broader public knowledge of the issues;
- (3) The removal of the procedural obstacles to negotiations by the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva;
- (4) A greater sensitizing of the Security Council to the arms control and disarmament problem in the context of the broad efforts to prevent the resort to force and to create the positive political atmosphere which is needed for negotiations on arms control and disarmament;
- (5) A further development of the Secretary-General's good offices as a contribution to preventive diplomacy;
- (6) Greater attention to dealing with the tensions and sensitivities in a regional context, such as to reduce the pressure for armaments.

These reasons are still valid.

5. During the past few years, succeeding chairmen of the First Committee have attempted to improve procedures. However many countries have persisted in an unwillingness to support a consensus to the effect that an improvement in disarmament machinery is desirable.

6. At its forty-second session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 42/42 N, co-sponsored by Canada, entitled "Rationalization of the work of the First Committee", in which it called for the implementation at the forty-third session of the Assembly, in 1988, of a range of measures including:

- (a) A recommendation that procedural matters should be handled by decisions rather than resolutions;
- (b) Merging of similar resolutions;
- (c) Allocation of a specified period of time during the session for discussion and consultations;
- (d) Allocation of a specific period for general debate.

Canada strongly supports these and other measures aimed at increasing the effectiveness of United Nations institutions.