

arms race, the race continues - and continues with the threat of acceleration.

There are a number of areas in which the threat is immediate. I should like to mention two. One is the ominous tide of increased conventional arms acquisition by non-nuclear countries in the less-developed world. In some regions, the arms race is only an "arms walk"; in others it is a pell-mell scramble. In all it is a severe drain on the economic and technical resources of the poor countries and contributes to the increase of tension. In the Middle East, for example, the leap-frog acquisition of arms contributed to the recent conflict and could lead again to hostilities. We must find ways of putting an end to the renewal of this arms race. Although Canada recognizes the problems created by Soviet arms activities in the Middle East, and the reasons which have led Western countries to attempt to maintain a military balance in that part of the world, we regret the continued flow of arms into the area, and we support practical and equitable proposals for controlling all arms shipments. Thus Canada has expressed its support for the preliminary suggestion of President Johnson to institute a system of registering arms shipments to the Middle East. Our hope would be that registration would be followed by arrangements to limit the supply of arms. Unfortunately, the Soviet Union has so far shown little interest in this exploratory proposal. But we must continue to search for ways to reduce the flow of lethal equipment to this and other areas of tension in the less-developed world.

A second immediate problem of arms-race acceleration is the possible deployment of anti-ballistic-missile systems in the Soviet Union and the United States. Evidence that the Soviet Union is undertaking some ABM deployment and the progress made by Communist China in nuclear-weapons development have increased pressures for the United States to react in kind. The costs of constructing systems of defensive missiles are astronomical; some estimates range as high as \$40 billion. But even such sums spent on ABMs would not prevent the penetration of United States defences by Soviet missiles in an all-out attack. As for a potential Chinese missile threat, we understand that the time required for United States ABM deployment is sufficiently short to permit a wait-and-see approach for the moment. Apart from the question of whether ABMs would provide full protection, however, the effect of deployment upon East-West relations and the prospect for further arms-control measures would be unfortunate. As a result, Canada supports the United States in its current unwillingness to deploy an ABM system. In our view, the United States is pursuing the right course in attempting to obtain Soviet agreement in establishing a moratorium on ABM deployment and in limiting all forms of strategic missiles. We hope that these efforts will succeed.

So far I have mentioned only the security and political implications of arms and arms control. There is, however, also an economic side. I am appalled by the estimate that the nations of the world spend more than \$130 billion - a figure more than twice Canada's gross national product - on arms every year. While we can appreciate the security requirements which necessitate such expenditures, we also know what must be given up in the way of consumer goods, educational facilities and social services in order to pay this bill.