

Special Session on Disarmament, which remains the yardstick by which we measure progress, was a consensus agreement. Important advice has been offered by last year's Chairman, Ambassador Alatas of Indonesia, to form a small working group to attempt rationalization of the Committee's work.

What is needed to reinvigorate the concept of collective security, including arms control, is not a new structure or set of principles: we have a perfectly adequate framework for peace already in place in the form of the UN and its Charter. What needs to be done is to use it effectively.

* * *

It is a source of pride to Canada that one of last year's resolutions adopted by consensus was the substantive Canadian resolution, "Verification in All Its Aspects," which highlights the importance of verification as a key element in the arms control negotiating process. Underlying every arms control issue is the question of confidence -- of assurance of compliance, and thus of verification. We in Canada are certain that verification cannot be left aside as a subsidiary element of arms control. To the contrary, though the concept of verification must never be seen as an obstacle to be thrown up against serious arms control negotiation, it must be an integral and essential part of all arms control agreements.

Canada intends to take the lead again this year in putting forward a similar resolution. Our aim will be to reaffirm the importance of effective arrangements for verification; arrangements based on sound technical competence and principles, and which can be carefully tailored to fit specific agreements. Canada wants the General Assembly to have the Disarmament Commission consider verification at the earliest possible opportunity. We hope as last year that all member states will join in supporting this important undertaking.

A year ago the Canadian Government developed a Programme of Action for the remaining half of the Second Disarmament Decade. This programme continues to focus on practical solutions to arms control problems -- on laying an essential ground-work for the creation of confidence and trust vital to arms control agreements.

As part of this Programme of Action, the Canadian Government continues to provide some one million Canadian