

Canadian Address to Third Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference

Following are excerpts from the statement by the Head of the Canadian Delegation, Douglas Roche, Ambassador for Disarmament, in the General Debate of the Third Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in Geneva on August 29.

"Mr. President, no one under-estimates the gravity of the present situation in the world; there are too many nuclear weapons in existence, and the potential for further development, in quality and quantity, is too strong. There are inequalities among states, resentments, fears. We have to deal with all these reactions. But in the end, logic compels, history demands and the people of the world plead that governments build the process of order, not degenerate into anarchy. Any weakening of the NPT will lead to the very condition — nuclear anarchy — that we are pledged to prevent. The implications of nuclear proliferation are so dangerous for all that we must find a realistic way to constrain such an unacceptable threat to common security and stability. In short, the existing nuclear arms race must cease and the spread of nuclear arms blocked off to prevent nuclear anarchy.

It is with the solid reputation of a country committed to non-proliferation, as well as to nuclear cooperation, that Canada comes to the Third Review Conference of the NPT. Canada's credentials have long been established. Although Canada participated together with the United Kingdom in helping the United States develop the world's first atomic weapons during World War II, it was the first country consciously to forgo the development of nuclear weapons, despite clearly having the technology and capability to do so from the earliest days of the nuclear era. Canada declined to develop a capability to produce nuclear weapons and has adhered firmly to this principle ever since. Instead, Canada has concentrated all of its efforts to the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Canada's nuclear programme is strictly for peaceful purposes and entirely subject to safeguards. With respect to nuclear exports, Canada has a comprehensive nuclear exports policy which is based upon and fully recognizes the central



Aerial view of the Palais des Nations in Geneva, the European Office of the United Nations and site of the Third Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, which was held from August 27 to September 24.

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value of the NPT as the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime. Specifically, Canada will only export nuclear materials, equipment and technology to those non-nuclear weapon states which have made a comprehensive binding commitment to non-proliferation, either by ratifying the NPT or by having taken an equivalent binding step, and have thereby accepted IAEA safeguards on their entire nuclear programme, current and future....

Mr. President, as we go through our complete review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, it will be important to be con-

scious of the successes and failures of not only the past five years but those since the beginning of the nuclear age. Keeping in mind the problems of the present international security situation, Canada will strive to achieve two basic objectives at this Review Conference:

— the maintenance of the NPT as the basic element of an effective international non-proliferation regime;

— the reaffirmation by the Review Conference of the purpose and provisions of the NPT.