

proliferation. After a summit meeting in Washington D.C. in June 1990, President Bush and President Gorbachev issued a communique which expressed their support for the MTCR, noted that they would continue bilateral consultations, pointed out their intention to seek regional methods for reducing proliferation and called on all countries to exercise restraint.

The concerns about ballistic missile proliferation that prompted the MTCR were given particular poignancy in the Persian Gulf crisis because of Iraq's possession and use of SCUD missiles and the possibility that they might be armed with chemical or biological warheads. The crisis has prompted stronger efforts at regional and international levels to develop more effective proliferation controls.

### CURRENT CANADIAN POSITION

As one of the original members of the MTCR, Canada has been a strong supporter of the regime and of controls on ballistic missile proliferation generally. Canada acted as the host for an MTCR meeting in July 1990 in Ottawa.<sup>1</sup>

In the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war, as part of an overall plan for post-hostility actions, Canada proposed that there be a world summit on the instruments of war and mass destruction.<sup>2</sup> The plan calls for efforts on various multilateral arms control issues with a view to taking further steps to control proliferation. A global conference under UN auspices would issue a statement of intent to this end, and a condemnation of proliferation. A second summit would be held in 1995 to mark the development of the new measures.

As part of its proposed programme, the Canadian Government has said that it will encourage expanded participation in the MTCR and will propose more stringent controls.<sup>3</sup> With this end in view, at a MTCR meeting in Tokyo 18 to 20 March 1991, Canada proposed that the meeting review the Equipment and Technology Annex to the MTCR in order to consider ways of making the Annex's scope more stringent.<sup>4</sup> The Tokyo meeting led to agreement on a plan for revising the Annex and expanding participation in the regime.

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<sup>1</sup>Department of External Affairs. "Canada Hosts MTCR Meeting," *The Disarmament Bulletin*, no. 14, Fall 1990: 27.

<sup>2</sup>Department of External Affairs. "Post-Hostilities Activities," *Backgrounders*, 8 February 1991.

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup>Department of External Affairs. "MTCR Partners Meet in Tokyo," *The Disarmament Bulletin*, no. 16, Spring 1991: 10.