

A resolution was put forward to set up a voluntary register. Its purpose is to record the transfers among nations of seven types of conventional weapon systems: battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, large-calibre artillery systems, and missiles and missile launchers.

Eighty-three countries — Canada among them — submitted data for the Register's first year of operation (1992). This far exceeds the number of participants in any previous UN voluntary reporting mechanism in the military field.

At present, the Register covers only arms that are traded from one country to another. Canada wants to see the Register expanded to include weapons that are acquired and held within nations.

### **UNSCOM**

Early in 1991, United Nations forces inflicted a crushing defeat on Iraq after it had invaded Kuwait the previous year. Under the terms of Security Council Resolution 687 (1991), Iraq promised to destroy its weapons of mass destruction and its ballistic missiles. A United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) was set up to verify that Iraq was doing what it promised to do.

With the help of the IAEA, UNSCOM has pioneered the use of a number of verification techniques by the UN. UNSCOM and the IAEA are now ready to implement Security Council Resolution 715 (1991). This calls for mandatory and long-term monitoring of Iraqi compliance. Canada has been closely involved with UNSCOM's operations, providing one of the group's commissioners and numerous experts who have carried out inspections on the ground.

### **Verification Study**

As mentioned earlier, good verification procedures are vital to the effectiveness of any arms treaty. For this reason, Canada has pushed for a Group of Experts to study the role of the UN in the field of verification. In 1990, Canada chaired just such a study but, as its findings were based on research conducted before the Cold War ended, there was a need for a follow-up.

The new study — now in progress under a Canadian chair — is looking at how the role of the UN might change because of a new mood in international relations. In particular, the study is looking at how verification techniques might be used to help UN activities in confidence-building, conflict management and disarmament. The Group of Experts will hand its findings to the General Assembly in 1995.

### **Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty**

Most countries with nuclear weapons carry out test explosions from time to time. These tests inevitably release radiation and radioactive particles into the environment. Testing

Worldwide military spending runs at the pace of \$US2 million per minute.



An estimated 40 million people have been killed worldwide by conventional weapons since 1945.