

The most positive development of 1980 in the arms control and disarmament field was the successful conclusion of the UN conference on prohibitions or restrictions of the use of certain conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects. The convention of the same name, which becomes open for signature early in 1981, has three protocols dealing with non-detectable (by X-ray) fragments, mines and booby-traps, and incendiary weapons. Due to its limited application, the convention, while welcome, unfortunately cannot be regarded as a major step in the development of humanitarian law, a goal to which the Canadian government remains fully committed.

The Committee on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva renewed its efforts to negotiate limitations on arms, but became embroiled in procedural questions. Failure of the superpowers to make significant progress in private negotiations concerning a comprehensive test ban treaty and a chemical weapons treaty was matched by considerable indifference on the part of a number of non-nuclear-weapon states toward the USA-USSR draft radiological weapons treaty. The Committee did, however, establish four working groups: on a comprehensive program of disarmament (transferred from the Disarmament Commission); negative security guarantees; chemical weapons and radiological weapons. In addition, the *ad hoc* group of seismic experts continued to do useful work in connection with the verification of a future comprehensive test ban treaty. Besides participating in all these forums, Canada introduced into the CD a compendium of arms control verification proposals and a related paper analyzing the proposals. Together with Australia, Canada tabled a paper dealing with the proposal for the prohibition of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes from the historical perspective.

The UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) met for four weeks in the late spring of 1980 and addressed an impressive agenda. On the subject of declaring the 1980s as the second disarmament decade, the Commission was successful in the preparation of a document that was subsequently adopted by consensus at the thirty fifth session of the UN General Assembly. With respect to conventional weapons disarmament, the Commission reported to the General Assembly, which in turn overcame the misgivings of a number of members and authorized the UNDC to draw up, in 1981, terms of reference for a new UN study on this hitherto neglected subject. Regarding the control of military budgets, the UNDC examined progress to date on the national reporting of military spending, and was asked by the General Assembly to continue to identify the principles governing the freezing and reduction of military budgets and to refine the reporting instrument. Canada was one of only 14 states, mostly Western, to complete this instrument.

Two existing arms control and disarmament agreements were reviewed in 1980: the *Bacteriological (biological) weapons treaty* and the nuclear *Non-proliferation treaty* (NPT). In the former case, a review conference concluded that the text of the treaty was of sufficient scope to remain relevant. The need for adequate verification in such agreements was underlined

amid conflicting reports about an incident involving anthrax toxins in the USSR, and partially successful attempts were made to strengthen the verification provisions of the treaty. In the case of the NPT review conference, the nuclear-weapon states were criticized for not fully living up to the terms of the treaty with respect to the negotiation of effective nuclear arms control and disarmament measures. Though an agreed upon final document of the review conference proved impossible, the treaty itself remained intact. Nuclear non-proliferation remains an important Canadian priority. As well as seeking to prevent the further expansion—i.e. vertical proliferation—of nuclear weaponry by the existing nuclear-weapon states, Canada has also continued to exercise its best efforts to prevent the spread to other countries—i.e. horizontal proliferation—of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive capability. These latter efforts are described in Part A, Chapter 2.

The thirty fifth General Assembly's First Committee examined the usual array of arms control and disarmament resolutions, 43 on 20 separate items including a number of UN disarmament studies. For its part, Canada introduced for the third consecutive year a resolution on a ban against the production of fissionable material for nuclear-weapons purposes. While numerical support for the resolution continued to grow, only one nuclear-weapon state remained fully committed to the proposal, and no progress was made with those states which retain the option, and are thought to be capable or nearly so, of acquiring such weapons. Canada co-sponsored one of two resolutions on a comprehensive test ban treaty, and two resolutions on chemical weapons. On one of the latter, adopted by the General Assembly only after considerable controversy, Canada was particularly insistent that the UN carry out an impartial investigation of the alleged use of chemical weapons in certain countries. Canada also introduced a procedural resolution urging that the Committee on Disarmament devote greater attention to verification as provided for in its permanent agenda. Unfortunately, the resolution had to be withdrawn because amendments were introduced which would have deflected it from its original purpose.

### North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Canadian membership in NATO, as a collective defence organization and forum for political consultations in the East-West context with our allies, has been a major factor in the conduct of Canadian foreign policy since the Alliance's inception over 30 years ago. Based on the principle of co-operation among the European member nations, the United States and Canada, and the indivisibility of the defence of its two continental sectors, the Alliance has served its members well in safeguarding peace for three decades. The Alliance's consultation process has also provided NATO countries with the opportunity to exchange views and seek consensus on important issues having a direct bearing on the East-West relationship.

Canada's defence commitment to NATO is based on the premise that in contributing to the direct defence of Europe, Canada is also contributing to its own defence. NATO relies on