

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

Nuclear proliferation remains the most critical security issue facing the world. The disintegration of the Soviet Union has increased the number of potential nuclear weapons states as well as the sources of proliferation. In May 1992, Prime Minister Mulroney outlined a seven-point policy to prevent nuclear proliferation. Several elements of this policy were endorsed at the Munich Summit in 1992:

- strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) by its indefinite extension in 1995 and by universal adherence to it;
- strengthen International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards and increase funding for their implementation;
- tighten controls on the export of nuclear weapons and technology;
- curtail the potential sale of nuclear expertise to pariah states;
- encourage security co-operation in regions of tension.

Ukraine and Kazakhstan have not yet acceded to the NPT or ratified the Lisbon Protocol, in which they agreed to eliminate strategic nuclear weapons. North Korea recently expressed its intention to withdraw from the NPT. This development could represent a serious setback in efforts to strengthen and extend the NPT and could weaken the overall regime.

It is imperative that the G-7 countries continue the efforts undertaken at the Munich Summit to curb and prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

First and foremost, Canada believes that the international community must work toward achieving universal accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and its indefinite extension at the NPT

Extension Conference in 1995. Ratified by 157 countries, this treaty is the main international instrument for curbing nuclear proliferation. There are still several countries with nuclear programs or nuclear weapons on their territory which have not yet signed the treaty.

The significant reductions in the nuclear arsenal of the United States and the former Soviet Union achieved in the last year should help to pave the way for a successful conclusion of the 1995 Extension Conference, but other nuclear weapons states should also do their part. The conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty among the nuclear weapons states would be the surest way to prevent a new nuclear arms race. A universal and extended moratorium by all nuclear weapons states would maintain the momentum toward negotiation.

These recent accomplishments should allay the suspicions of a number of countries that the nuclear non-proliferation regime is perpetuating a system of unequal responsibility and security. Undermining the NPT would create greater risks and instability. The best guarantee against nuclear adventurism is an indefinite extension of the treaty. Canada will work with its G-7 partners and other like-minded countries to achieve a successful conclusion to the NPT Extension Conference.

It should be recognized that adhering to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in itself may not prevent clandestine nuclear programs. North Korea and Iraq are cases in point. Stronger measures are needed to deter violation. The case of North Korea has demonstrated the need for a coherent system to manage non-compliance and has proven the usefulness of giving the International Atomic Energy Agency the power to carry out safeguards inspections at any installations at any time. Canada will continue to work with the major UN contributing countries to strengthen the IAEA.