

recently, of toxin weapons. It appears to us that the investigation launched by the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly has not yet fulfilled its mandate, both because the Exports Group has only recently been given permission to go to countries in the area in question to collect evidence and because recent reports of the possible use of toxins must be given serious study. We would therefore urge other delegations that wish to see the effectiveness of existing agreements maintained to join in extending the mandate of the Experts Group.

Of the several studies which will be presented to this session of the General Assembly, we have nominated experts to take part in those on confidence-building measures and on the relationship between disarmament and development. I have referred earlier to the necessity to build and maintain confidence as an essential ingredient of the process of negotiation. The study on confidence-building measures will be a valuable reminder that the measures and factors which it analyzes can and should be used to assist in the negotiation and implementation of agreements.

With regard to the disarmament and development study, I share the hope expressed by Sweden's distinguished Under-Secretary of State for Disarmament, Mrs. Inga Thorsson, that this project will represent the beginning of a process. A Canadian expert participated in that study, with which we are proud to have been associated. It underlines the interrelatedness of the problems which confront the world community and the need, more than ever before, for breadth of vision for their resolution.

A year ago I drew attention to the incipient arms competition in outer space and called for intensified efforts to conclude further measures to prevent an arms race in outer space. Canada has been involved for over 20 years in the peaceful use of outer space. Eight Canadian-built satellites are at present serving in the communications field. We hope to use the experience we have gained in these peaceful activities to assist in reaching an agreement to maintain outer space as a weapon-free environment. Negotiations towards such an agreement should be carried out in the Committee on Disarmament.

**Public involve-
ment**

I began by referring to the preparations for the second Special Session. In concluding, I should like to mention that in Canada, parliamentarians, community groups, non-governmental organizations, universities, secondary schools and individuals are involved in the study of issues likely to arise at the Special Session. In the years since the first Special Session the Canadian government has greatly increased its efforts to assist the process of public involvement. Financial support has been provided for international conferences held in Canada as well as for seminars, study groups and speakers at a variety of meetings during this Disarmament Week. We have attached particular importance to research being undertaken from a Canadian perspective. We have also been issuing a newsletter on national and international activities in the field of disarmament.

In his statement in plenary, the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs said: "we cannot ignore the growing impatience of the world's peoples with the lack of progress towards verifiable arms limitation and disarmament agreements. Our efforts