



us have a responsibility to play a constructive role in the arms control process.

Canada will press on with constructive work in every multilateral forum that, one day, must achieve the basis for a world community freed from the weapons of mass destruction. Iceland showed that the complete elimination of ballistic missiles in ten years is now seriously discussed at the highest levels. The full implementation of this historic opportunity is our task. Iceland was a moment on the journey, but the journey goes on.

When President Reagan addressed the General Assembly before the Reykjavik meeting, he spoke of hope, of a future without weapons of mass destruction. He reaffirmed his country's commitment to peace, to a more stable superpower relationship, and to substantial progress on arms control and disarmament. The President expressed his Government's willingness to ratify the Threshold Test Ban Treaty and the Treaty on Peaceful Nuclear Explosions once agreement is reached on improved verification procedures. He offered to consider other limits on nuclear testing in parallel with arms reductions. It is our hope that the Soviet Union might find it possible to build on this realistic and welcome approach as a firm foundation for real progress.

When Foreign Minister Shevardnadze came to New York earlier in this session, he too gave us reason for optimism. He spoke of relations with the United States as holding promise — of encouraging outlines of meaningful agreements between his country and the United States of America. When we later welcomed him in Ottawa, Mr. Shevardnadze once again repeated his country's commitment to more stable East-West ties, and to progress on arms control.

But in this atmosphere of expectation, two notes of caution are in order: first, any sense of new momentum can only lead to lasting, effective results if it is backed up by patience, quiet negotiation and due attention to adequate verification, which over the long term will assure confidence in compliance.

And second, our hopes and expectations surrounding the superpower talks

and the bilateral nuclear and space negotiations in Geneva, as important as they are, should not be allowed to distract attention from the necessity for complementary progress in conventional and multilateral arms control forums.

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In this context, we are all much encouraged by the successful conclusion of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Europe. The results of this Conference bring new openness and predictability to the conduct of military affairs in Europe. The establishment of agreed procedures for air and ground on-site inspections is a landmark achievement — one which will provide an effective basis for other arms control negotiations.

More broadly still, the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) has had a relatively productive session. The guidelines for confidence-building measures which the UNDC will report to the General Assembly, like the Stockholm Conference Document, should provide a useful basis for future negotiators. They could be drawn on to ensure those elements of confidence, compliance and verification which will be essential components of all effective arms control agreements.

The Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva has also had a more productive session; if it has still not reached agreement on a global chemical weapons ban, detailed negotiations are intensifying and there have been welcome signs that the Soviet Union is prepared to move forward on verification. We have particularly noted the proposal of the United Kingdom on challenge inspection, which we hope will provide a basis for practical progress on one of the most difficult issues associated with a global chemical weapons ban.

But the sense of positive accomplishment does not extend to other issues on the Conference on Disarmament agenda. We are frankly disappointed that progress on a comprehensive nuclear test ban has been so slow. We were particularly discouraged at the failure to agree on a practical mandate for a sub-

sidary body to work constructively towards an agreed test ban. We note and welcome that the Soviet Union has taken a more forthcoming approach on technical matters relating to the establishment of a global seismic monitoring network. The Australian proposal for an international seismic network is both consistent with Canada's concern for a reliably verifiable test ban, and an encouraging step towards the objective of a comprehensive test ban. Expert-level talks between Soviet and US scientists on nuclear testing are a welcome development — one which all of us hope can provide yet another step towards our common goal.

The prevention of an arms race in outer space is a high priority for Canada. It was thus disappointing that the mandate for the subsidiary body on outer space was agreed so late in the last CD session. Once the mandate was agreed, discussion was both sober and thoughtful. The existing mandate is clearly demonstrating its usefulness.

Canada played an active part in the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons. We are heartened by the Conference Final Declaration — by its strong reaffirmation of the principles of the Convention and its restatement of the common interest all share in strengthening the Convention's authority and effectiveness through promoting confidence and cooperation.

This activity shows that the world community is not indifferent or impotent in building a safer world. There is still much to do in the international arena and Canada pledges, once again, to do everything in our power to strengthen the international machinery of peace. This worldwide activity must reinforce the efforts of the superpowers to find bilateral agreements. Although 86 per cent of the people of the world do not live in the United States or the Soviet Union, we are all caught up in the fallout from this relationship of the two great superpowers who together possess 95 per cent of the more than