
expenditure. The step-by-step approach takes time, beginning with the mutual perception of security which can lead to agreements to limit arms and to control their development and deployment. Once arms competition is contained, efforts can be focused on reductions, which would continue to reflect that same approximate security balance.

The prospects for concluding arms control and disarmament agreements continue to be limited. The postponement of consideration of ratification of SALT II (Strategic Arms Limitations Talks) by the U.S. Senate followed the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979. The review of arms control and disarmament policies by the new U.S. administration should result in a new start in the SALT process. At the last NATO Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Rome, which I attended, the United States reaffirmed the intention of the previous administration to go forward with discussions on the limitation of theatre nuclear forces. Negotiations on a comprehensive test-ban treaty and on a ban on chemical weapons have continued to be protracted.

It is, indeed, in the process of peacemaking that real disarmament progress is likely to be registered. Many of the crisis spots in the world are not cast in ideological and imperial terms as is the current case between the East and the West. The vast majority of disputes, particularly in the Third World, are regional in scope and often reflect *deep-seated and historical quarrels in relation to local and ill-defined issues*. Canada has been active in seeking solutions to international conflicts.

**"Suffocation"
strategy**

A major focus of Canada's recent arms-control activities was the Prime Minister's proposal at the first United Nations' Special Session Devoted to Disarmament in 1978 in the context of restraining the technological momentum behind the strategic nuclear arms race. The elements of the "strategy of suffocation" — a comprehensive test-ban treaty, a ban on the flight-testing of all new strategic delivery vehicles, a ban on production of fissionable material for nuclear-weapons purposes and an agreement to limit and then progressively to reduce military spending on new strategic nuclear-weapons systems — were not new to the arms-control discussions. What was new was the concept of their interaction in combination to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons among heretofore non-nuclear weapons states or the nuclear-weapons states themselves.

Three years later the concept of the strategy of suffocation remains valid. The government takes every opportunity to reaffirm the importance it attaches to the continuation of the SALT process and to the realization of a verifiable comprehensive test-ban treaty. These priorities, together with assisting in the preparation of a conventional ban on chemical weapons and the promotion of the evolution of an effective non-proliferation régime, will guide Canadian preparations for the second United Nations' Special Session on Disarmament next year in which Canada intends to take an active part.

As the Prime Minister has indicated, in the 1980s we must look for new ways of dealing with tension and threats to peace through new forms of consultation and crisis management, including ways of dealing with regional crises. Peacekeeping has