

resolution, adopted by consensus, should provide a clear signal to negotiators of a global political determination to achieve an effective and verifiable abolition of these reprehensible weapons.

Another resolution to which Canada attaches special importance is one on the subject of international arms transfers. This resolution is expected to acknowledge the report of the UN Secretary-General on ways and means of promoting transparency in international arms transfers.

This report, which was prepared by a Group of Experts including Mr. Ernie Regehr from Canada, was requested by the General Assembly at its 1988 session. As recommended in the report, Canada favours the establishment of an international arms transfer register, under UN auspices, as a means of building confidence and of discouraging states from embarking on excessive accumulations of conventional arms. Canada is pleased that support for an arms transfer register has become very broad and is optimistic that UNGA 46 will create such a system.

The Canadian delegation will again work within a core group of six countries to elaborate a resolution entitled "Urgent need for a comprehensive test ban treaty." This year's resolution is expected to acknowledge developments over the past year relevant to a nuclear test ban treaty, and to add momentum to ongoing efforts towards this fundamental Canadian arms control objective.

As in the past, Canada will introduce a procedural resolution on a prohibition of the production of fissionable materials.

The important achievements of arms control and disarmament negotiations over the last year — notably the signing of the START and CFE treaties and the significant progress towards conclusion of a chemical weapons convention — is expected to contribute to a positive atmosphere at the UNGA 46 First Committee. Canada will seek to ensure that the Committee's work reflects positive developments and encourages further progress in all areas of arms control and disarmament. ■

Ambassador Consults on Arms Control and Disarmament Issues in Asia-Pacific



Ambassador for Disarmament Peggy Mason (standing, centre) in Kyoto, Japan.

From May 27 to 30, Ambassador for Disarmament Peggy Mason participated in the Second United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, which was held in the ancient temple city of Kyoto, Japan. This timely international conference brought together politicians, diplomats specializing in disarmament issues, academics, technical experts and representatives of a wide range of non-governmental organizations. Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu addressed the opening plenary, as did the foreign ministers of Japan, Australia, the Philippines and the Russian Republic, as well as the head of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Under the broad theme of challenges to multilateral disarmament, participants focussed on regional approaches to disarmament, control of weapons' proliferation and problems arising from the implementation of disarmament measures.

Ambassador Mason was invited to address the issue of "non-proliferation regimes versus partial or comprehensive prohibitions." In her remarks, she noted that Canada sees the topic not as an opposition — not a "versus" — but as a unison — an "and." In Canada's view, both non-proliferation regimes and partial or comprehensive prohibitions have their role in preventing the spread of weapon systems. This is why Canada, in framing its own initiative to encourage urgent international attention to curbing proliferation, is not trying to dictate a particular approach.

As Ambassador Mason explained, "We are not attempting to force decisions on the relative merits of the NPT versus the Treaties of Tlatelolco and Rarotonga, or a chemical weapons convention versus a mechanism such as the Australia Group. We recognize that there are differing, legitimate views within the international community on how best to deal with proliferation. We recognize as well that national decisions often cannot continue to wait upon more broadly-based action. What we are proposing is that each individual state commit itself to move ahead in the various existing non-proliferation regimes, forums and processes, be these unilateral, regional or global, *as it sees fit.*"