

Role of Science and Technology

The working group on "The Role of Science and Technology in the Context of International Security, Disarmament and Other Related Fields" did not succeed in producing a consensus set of guidelines and recommendations as it had hoped to do. Among the reasons for this setback was a fundamental difference of perspective between supplier and recipient states on the legitimacy of non-proliferation arrangements such as the Missile Technology Control Regime and the Australia Group, as well as equally polarized views of the NPT itself. On the positive side, the UNDC made considerable progress in demonstrating the need for, and utility of, multilateral dialogue on dual-use transfers and in identifying principles for international cooperation in this area that might command broader support than is presently the case. Canada had the difficult task of chairing the drafting group for combining disparate views and producing a final document.

One of the interesting features of UNDC attempts to reach a consensus on this issue was the composition of various alliances on the different problems at play. For example, a sub-item on "the transfer of high technology with military applications" was the brainchild of an Argentinian-Brazilian working paper calling

for "wider multilateral dialogue" with a view to "seeking universally acceptable international norms and guidelines that would regulate international transfers of high technology with military applications." This sub-item ultimately became the basis for a Canadian-Brazilian joint working paper at the 1993 UNDC session.

The constructive role of Brazil at the session deserves to be highlighted. Brazil is taking concrete steps to prove *bona fides* as a serious non-proliferator, and provides a link between developing and developed countries. Canada and Brazil had beforehand negotiated a carefully balanced text, which formed the core of the draft document.

The crumbling of an emerging consensus began when hardliners from both the traditional West and Non-Aligned groupings reopened previously informally agreed text calling for "wider participation" in the NPT. However, the fact that the vast majority of delegations from all sides believed that a meaningful text was within sight led to the agreement, brokered by UNDC Chairman Castro of Brazil, for this item to be extended for one more year. Canadian Ambassador Peggy Mason was also able to preserve the "agreed" and "unagreed" portions of the text, thus there is every likelihood that the 1994 working group will pick up where the 1993 group left off.

Basis for Progress on Technology Transfers

The following are excerpts from Canada's closing statement to the 1993 session of the UNDC, delivered by Ambassador for Disarmament Peggy Mason on May 10.

I would like to offer Canada's perspective on the work of this session. Turning first to the nuclear item, the Working Group Chairman, Ambassador Victor Batiouk of Ukraine, laboured mightily in the face of an overcrowded agenda and delegations stretched very thin. This year, again, the deliberations of the Working Group revealed the tremendous difficulties to be overcome if this item is to be successfully concluded in 1994. For our part, Canada wishes to reiterate the priority it attaches to this item. We would urge Ambassador Batiouk to pursue intersessional consultations in order to further prepare the ground for next year's work.

I turn now to Working Group II.... Canada has devoted increasing attention to regional disarmament and international security questions over the past year as it becomes apparent that a host of post-Cold War problems are best addressed at the regional level. It is therefore with tremendous satisfaction that we congratulate the Working Group for the achievement of a meaningful consensus text. I am sure all delegations will join me in paying homage to the Working Group Chairman, Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffmann of Germany, whose absolutely unstinting efforts simply would not allow for anything short of success.

I turn now to Working Group III, with respect to which Canada had the privilege of chairing the Drafting Group. In that capacity I earlier today made a statement as to the outcome of this year's work. Let me now make a few additional observations....

To put it at its plainest, the subject matter of Working Group III required the Group to confront fundamental differences of perspective between supplier and recipient states in the area of the transfer of technology with military applications. Yet the

plain fact is that, whatever those differences, suppliers and recipients need each other if either side is to satisfactorily advance its non-proliferation and peaceful cooperation objectives.

In other words, what is required is a joint approach that adequately reflects the views of both suppliers and recipients in a way that meets our twin objectives of enhancing international security and promoting international cooperation for peaceful purposes. This is the approach reflected in the Brazil/Canada Working Paper that our two countries developed in advance of this session of the Commission.

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The result of that joint effort was not only the paper itself but a basis for cooperation that I believe was evident throughout the deliberations of Working Group III, particularly during the Drafting Group stage. In that respect, I wish to pay particular tribute to the Brazilian delegation for its outstanding efforts to advance understanding in this vital area.

Turning to the Chairman's Working Paper itself, in Canada's view there are many important principles and new understandings that are reflected in that document. I will take the time now to point to only one of them — one that, in my view, reflects not only the efforts made but the progress achieved in bridging the gap between supplier and recipient states. I am referring to paragraph 20 of the Chairman's text, which reads:

"Cooperation in this field among supplier and recipient states