

work in arms control and disarmament to which Canada remains committed. The programme includes nuclear weapons; other weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons; conventional weapons; and reduction of armed forces. Canada has responded to the challenge of the Final Document, reaffirmed at the Second United Nations Special Session on Disarmament, but the going has been slow and tough.

Nevertheless, Canada has made an impact on the process. In 1983, as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons of the Conference on Disarmament, Canada was responsible for producing for the first time a consensus document which contained the major elements required for a convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons. Canada continues to be instrumental in maintaining the momentum necessary to have the Conference on Disarmament conclude a treaty banning chemical weapons. This is but one area in which Canada has played a leading role. Other important examples exist, including our work in the Conference on Disarmament to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to study aspects of a treaty which would ban weapons in space.

The Canadian role in outer space matters is long-standing. In the 60's, the Hon. Howard Green, as Secretary of State for External Affairs in the Diefenbaker Government, was a chief architect in negotiating the Partial Test Ban Treaty which prohibits weapons testing in outer space. Successive Canadian governments have maintained Canada's objective at the United Nations, to encourage talks aimed at limiting outer space as an area for military competition and prevent the weaponization of space. We believe that the common, collective voice of the international community is essential in this endeavour and maintain that such talks should take place at the Conference on Disarmament, thus augmenting the U.S.-USSR bilateral negotiations on space.

Verification is an aspect of the arms control negotiating process which, because of its technically detailed nature, often does not get the attention it deserves. If nations are indeed serious about enhancing security by halting the arms race and reducing nuclear and conventional weapons, they cannot ignore the necessity for verification. Nations will only have confidence in treaties and conventions if they can assure that all parties are complying with both the spirit and letter of a negotiated text.

In 1979, after a review of twenty years of arms control and disarmament negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament (and its predecessors), Canada concluded that verification was central to every significant arms control negotiation. We believed, along with many others, that given the