
bear to bring about an early resumption of negotiations and not attempt to substitute empty debates or one-sided resolutions for the complicated, slow, but essential process of working out a settlement by the parties themselves.

Obviously, the Middle East situation has reached a crucial stage. For all concerned, these are days of opportunity. We must pray that they act wisely and with a full awareness of the awful consequences of unwise actions.

For whenever there is a potential for conflict these days we must not only contemplate localized limited hostilities, as frightful as these always are. We know that each new flare-up, wherever it occurs in the world, is a potential threat to us all, and even to world survival. We must remind those who would risk the use of arms that they are endangering more than the lives of their own people. Every weapon fired in anger is aimed, potentially, at us all. Thus we have a right and a duty to speak out; for what is at stake is, in truth, the peace of Canada and of every other country in the world.

Disarmament

Because this is the simple truth, no problem is of greater concern to this Assembly than disarmament, but equally no subject has more frustrated our efforts and disappointed our peoples. Next year's special session can provide us with an opportunity to move towards real disarmament. Canada co-sponsored the resolution calling for the session, and we shall put forward specific proposals to make it a success.

But we cannot wait for the special session. The need is immediate to improve and strengthen the international non-proliferation system, implement the non-proliferation treaty more effectively, and re-examine the risks and benefits in various nuclear cycles and processes.

If anything is more frightening than the prospect of rapidly-escalating local hostilities, it is the nightmare of unrestrained nuclear proliferation, with all of its attendant horrors. I find it difficult to understand how anyone among the world's leaders could consider that an expansion in the number of nuclear-weapon states would contribute to greater world stability. Canada, despite its known competence in the field, rejected the nuclear-weapons option long ago. Now we are making every effort to ensure that others do likewise. We shall only co-operate, in terms of nuclear supplies and technology, with those countries that have signed the non-proliferation treaty or are otherwise committed to full-scope safeguards. We are encouraged by the fact that some other nuclear-suppliers, including Australia and Sweden, have adopted a similar policy. We hope there will be more.

For Canada recognizes that, with the inevitable decline, and increasing costs, of conventional energy sources, much of the world will have no choice but to turn to nuclear sources to meet energy demands. We appreciate also that there are legitimate differences of opinion on the question of the safest and most efficient means of utilizing nuclear resources and technology. This is true even in countries whose commitment to non-proliferation is total and unquestioned.

Canada, therefore, welcomes and supports the London summit-meeting proposal for a
