

But there is another reason for our deep interest. Canada has been a pioneer in the development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. Our CANDU power reactor is an outstanding success both in Canada and abroad. But we are determined that this technology not be misused. We demand that stringent safeguards be applied by countries buying Canadian nuclear power facilities or materials. We are looking forward to the conclusions of INFCE*, the international study examining the further means by which nonproliferation standards can be applied to the nuclear fuel cycle. We want to ensure that the continued recourse to nuclear power is undertaken in the most stringent conditions possible, guaranteeing against any non-peaceful use.

We believe that governments who accept these conditions, indeed all governments, have a right to expect that the obligations of nuclear states under the Non-Proliferation Treaty will be carried out - including the pursuit of "negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date". Yet agreement has eluded the negotiations on a Comprehensive Test Ban for 15 years. Time is running out - and the patience of the people is running thin.

Genuine international security is not merely a matter of agreements on arms control and disarmament. Before such agreements can be reached, and certainly before they can have effect, there must be a climate of trust, of decency and justice among the nations of the world. Confidence must be built up by small steps between neighbours, between alliances, and between the nuclear powers. The United Nations must be allowed to expand its factfinding and peace-seeking roles if such confidence is to grow. In areas where tensions are too high, concrete steps must be taken to prevent accidents or miscalculations. More information must be shared before the strength of forces on all sides may be reduced.

The people of the world expect no less of us. And, Mr. President, the people are right.

Mr. President, as we examine the lessons of the past, and as we assess the challenges for the future, there is one striking fact that dominates all others - the singular failure of the international community to solve the problem of poverty. We are still haunted by the spectre of hundreds of millions of people living below the poverty line and in danger of starvation. The right to enough material goods to ensure health and dignity is still denied to far too many.

Giving effect to this basic human right is the greatest task facing the United Nations for the remainder of this century. The overriding importance of this work is clear to all. Two years ago this Assembly passed a resolution recognizing that "the full realization of civil and political rights without the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights is impossible".

*International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation.