

The Consultative Group has met twice in recent months, a general meeting in November and a smaller, sub-group meeting in April.

-- In November, the Consultative Group discussed a broad range of issues: from Canada's role and influence in Washington, Moscow, within NATO and the United Nations, to a careful examination of the arms control and disarmament agenda -- from chemical weapons to nuclear non-proliferation.

-- In April, a sub-group met to discuss in detail Canada's approach to the upcoming Third Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Group also considered the question of SDI. Some members prepared a statement expressing their concern over superpower efforts to achieve a capability to deploy ballistic missile defence systems and the risks they could pose to both ongoing arms control negotiations and existing agreements, in particular the ABM Treaty.

The full Consultative Group will meet again for a three-day meeting this fall to examine Canada's role in the world's multilateral negotiating forums, which include: the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, the Vienna Mutual Balanced Force Reduction Talks, and the First Committee of the United Nations in New York.

The Department also provides an annual sustaining grant of \$100,000 to the privately-created Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament to assist it in its public information and research activities.

As well, the new Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security has been allocated funds which will increase from \$1.5 to \$5 million over the next five years. Under the guidance of a Board of fifteen distinguished Canadians, chaired by William Barton, and its Executive Director, Geoffrey Pearson, the Institute will finance and conduct research and information programmes designed to raise the level of public knowledge and discourse on the entire range of questions relating to international peace and security.

Also, in 1979 the Department of External Affairs established a Disarmament Fund for the purpose of helping Canadians discuss, research and disseminate information on arms control and disarmament issues.

Since its inception the Fund has disbursed \$1.5 million to a total of 149 recipients, including a wide range of prominent Canadian groups, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions from virtually every province. A full report on this unique method of assisting public discourse has just been published.