

- encouraging compliance with existing treaties;
- developing verification mechanisms; and
- building confidence between East and West.

Compliance with existing treaties remains key to a credible and viable arms control régime. Mr. Clark recently reaffirmed Canada's firm support for the régime created by the ABM Treaty and the existing SALT agreements on limiting strategic forces. He said:

"Our stance towards SDI research is rooted in the need to conform strictly with the provisions of the ABM Treaty. We will continue to urge the parties to these treaties to do nothing to undermine their integrity, but rather work to reinforce their status and authority."

Canada has long considered the Non Proliferation Treaty, now signed by 131 nations, as an essential component of international security. It is an important security lynchpin which benefits all countries by reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation and facilitates the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The Third Review of the NPT, held last September in Geneva, produced a consensus document which reaffirmed the importance of the NPT.

Canada's own objectives at the Review Conference were clearly met -- the maintenance of the NPT as a basic element of the non-proliferation régime and a reaffirmation of the purposes and provisions of the Treaty.

Canada will continue to work to strengthen and enhance this Treaty, to maintain the impetus of the Review Conference in broadening the Treaty's membership and to encourage adherence to the letter and spirit of the Treaty.

The achievement of a Comprehensive Test Ban remains a fundamental objective for Canada. Recognising that there remain outstanding political and technical difficulties in the negotiation of a CTB, Canada is working steadily within the Conference on Disarmament to move forward on this important item.

There are few weapons of mass destruction as horrific as chemical weapons. Canada has been an active participant in the work now under way in the Conference on Disarmament to negotiate a multilateral, verifiable convention banning chemical weapons.