

UNDC Wraps Up Old Agenda Items

The United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) held its 1990 substantive session from May 7 to 29 at UN headquarters in New York. This session saw the beginning of the implementation of a reform package agreed upon during consultations in the fall of 1989. The reforms are designed to revitalize the UNDC, whose limited accomplishments in recent years have been a disappointment to many.

The reforms were outlined in a paper entitled "Ways and Means to Enhance the Functioning of the Disarmament Commission." This document urged member states to conclude at the 1990 session all outstanding items, many of which had appeared on the agenda for several years with little progress. Beginning in 1991 the UNDC should, according to the paper, limit its agenda to four items, none of which should remain on the agenda for more than three years.

Member states participating in the 1990 session demonstrated a remarkable determination to implement the reforms. All six carry-over items were concluded, four of them with a consen-

sus document — an achievement unprecedented in UNDC history. Perhaps the greatest success was the consensus text on "The Nuclear Capability of South Africa." The Canadian delegation, led by Ms. Peggy Mason, Ambassador for Disarmament, was also pleased with preliminary consideration of the single new item on the agenda: "Objective Information on Military Matters." Canada looks forward to substantive consideration of this item in 1991.

Discussions are currently underway concerning the 1991 agenda. Aspects of regional disarmament and conversion of military facilities to civilian uses are among the proposed items. In Canada's



At the 1990 UNDC: Col. Doug Fraser, Counsellor, Canadian Mission to the UN; Mr. Perry Calderwood, Arms Control and Disarmament Division, EAITC; and Ms. Peggy Mason, Ambassador for Disarmament.

view, the UNDC is now in a position to start anew. Canada is committed to making every effort to ensure that the UNDC plays a real and productive role in addressing today's pressing disarmament issues. ■

Preparations Advance for PTBT Amendment Conference

An organizational meeting in preparation for the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) Amendment Conference was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from May 29 to June 8. The purpose of the meeting was to determine administrative and organizational aspects of the Amendment Conference, which will take place in New York from January 7 to 18, 1991. The Conference is the result of an initiative by some 40 signatories to convert the PTBT, through an amendment, into a comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT).

The organizational meeting resulted in agreement on such matters as rules of procedure, background documentation and financing of the conference. A number of delegations, including Canada's, gave statements outlining general views on the issue of a comprehensive nuclear test ban.

The Canadian delegation was led by Ms. Peggy Mason, Ambassador for Disarmament, who will head Canada's delegation to the January Conference. In her address to participants, Ms. Mason reiterated Canada's commitment to achieving a CTBT. She said: "Canada believes that the Amendment Conference has the potential to build on common ground among parties and provide a fresh impetus to work towards the CTB goal, particularly at the Conference on Disarmament." She also noted that the Amendment Conference may play a useful role in furthering understanding of the verification requirements of a CTBT. ■

Forecast

A list of arms control and disarmament activities involving Canada, October 1990 through February 1991.

Ongoing: CSBM Negotiations, Vienna

Ongoing to November 19: CFE Negotiation, Vienna

October 15 - November 30: UN First Committee, New York

November 19: CFE Negotiation scheduled for conclusion; to be followed by CFE IA (see page 16)

November: Canada-Netherlands trial CW challenge inspection of Canadian Forces Base Lahr, Germany

January 7 - 18, 1991: PTBT Amendment Conference, New York

February 1991: CD spring session begins, Geneva