

by 10 Heads of Government (Mexico, Argentina, Zimbabwe (for the Non-Aligned), Cyprus, Paraguay, Gambia, Brazil, Portugal, Costa Rica, Afghanistan), one Vice President (Cuba), 13 Prime Ministers (Sweden, Japan, Ireland, India, Finland, Iceland, Trinidad/Tobago, Holy See, Turkey, Barbados, Israel, Lesotho, St. Vincent), 55 Foreign Ministers (including Canada/Clark, USA/Shultz, USSR/Shevardnadze, UK/Howe, France, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, China) and 48 Heads of Delegation from 126 Member States and 7 Observers.

The Canadian Delegation, headed by Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, included 15 Parliamentarians as observers and 20 non-government individuals as special advisers. Canada was one of only eight countries to include NGO representatives on its delegation. Also participating were Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament, Douglas Roche, as Deputy Head; the Permanent Representatives to the UN in New York and Geneva, Stephen Lewis and de Montigny Marchand, respectively; officials from External Affairs and National Defence; and a representative from the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security.

The statement by the SSEA, delivered on June 13, elicited congratulations from all groups. It placed major emphasis on recent concrete ACD achievements and the need for UNSSOD III to complement and enhance that progress. Mr. Clark noted that the UN has an important role to play, but will only advance the ACD process if efforts are focused on practical approaches and the issues capable of mustering consensus. Canadian ACD priorities include step-by-step progress toward the realization of a CTBT, strengthening of the NPT, negotiation of a convention banning chemical weapons, the achievement of deep reductions in nuclear weapons arsenals, the prevention of an arms race in outer space and the recognition of the central role of verification and confidence-building measures in the ACD process. In the latter regard, the SSEA drew specific attention to a joint Canada/Netherlands proposal for a UN Experts Study on a UN role in verification.

Recent progress in ACD in the USA/USSR context, especially the ratification of the INF agreement at the Moscow Summit of May 29 - June 2, 1988, was welcomed by virtually all speakers and had a pervasive and positive impact on the atmosphere of the Special Session.