

During the next two days you will undoubtedly be discussing the second UN Special Session on Disarmament which ended last week, and also the prospects for the period ahead. I would like to share with you some thoughts on each. In my view, it should be a mistake to dwell too long on what was not achieved at UNSSOD II or to succumb to the temptation of sustained hand-wringing about failure. Rather, we should be grateful that it was held in spite of an exceedingly unpropitious international atmosphere.

We should also welcome the fact that UNSSOD II preserved intact the viability of the United Nations system to deliberate constructively on international security matters, particularly arms control and disarmament. Despite the temptation to vote resolutions which could not achieve consensus, the non-aligned countries in the end chose the path of realism rather than a procedure which could only devalue the system.

An important achievement of UNSSOD II was its reaffirmation of the Final Document of UNSSOD I. The Program of Action in that Final Document highlighted the importance of the negotiating process, as did the many world leaders who addressed the Special Session.

In his address Prime Minister Trudeau seized the occasion to call again on the nuclear powers to negotiate four verifiable arms control agreements which, in their combination, would halt the technological momentum of the nuclear arms race. They are: a comprehensive nuclear test ban; a ban on the flight-testing of all new strategic delivery vehicles; a ban on the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes; a limitation and eventual reduction of military spending for new strategic weapons systems. This strategy of suffocation, the Prime Minister stressed, is not in competition with current negotiations on reductions of nuclear weapons. To underline this point, he proposed that the strategy be enfolded into a policy of stabilization which has two complementary components: the current negotiating approach aimed at achieving a stable nuclear balance at lower levels; and the strategy of suffocation aimed at inhibiting the development of new nuclear weapons systems.