

Prime Minister Trudeau, speaking to the UN Special Session on Disarmament, outlined a "strategy of suffocation" of the nuclear arms race. As a result of Canadian initiatives at the subsequent General Assembly, the new Committee on Disarmament (CD) is expected to discuss at the appropriate time a fissionable-material production ban, one of the four elements of the Canadian strategy. Canada, along with its NATO allies, kept in close touch during 1978 with the critical Strategic Arms Limitations Talks between the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. Canada made clear that it regarded the successful conclusion of SALT II as an important step forward in the task of restraining the strategic nuclear confrontation and of developing a more stable basis for maintaining peace and security.

In the area of nuclear proliferation, Canada played an active part in the work of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE). The results of this comprehensive two-year study will have important implications for international efforts to establish a nuclear-safeguards regime capable of adapting to new technologies. The final results will be available for the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in 1980. Bilaterally, Canada negotiated an agreement with Japan that fully met our non-proliferation requirements, while the interim arrangement concluded with the European Community augured well for subsequent negotiations towards a comprehensive agreement.

Energy Supply and Security

Uncertainty about Iranian and other Middle East oil supplies, as well as strong upward pressures on prices, led Canada, together with other members of the International Energy Agency (IEA), to take corrective action to deal with a prospective global crude-oil shortfall. For the foreseeable future Canada will need to make every effort, both on its own and in co-operation with others, to increase energy security by a range of measures, including careful management of domestic energy resources, diversification of energy imports and active encouragement of efficient energy use in Canada. Bilateral oil supply arrangements designed to enhance our longer-term energy security, have been actively pursued with other countries, such as Mexico and Venezuela.

The Human Dimension

All states, through their adherence to the Charter of the United Nations, have undertaken an obligation to protect and promote the fundamental rights of all persons within their borders. When this international obligation is not fulfilled, other states, including Canada, must concern themselves. On this premise Canada made bilateral representations during 1978 to a number of governments regarding reports of human rights violations and, in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, urged action on situations of gross abuses of human rights.