

They are thus not bound by its articles. These states include Argentina, Brazil, India, Israel, Pakistan and South Africa.

Some of these states — and some of the states that have signed the NPT — argue that the Treaty discriminates against non-nuclear-weapon states. Nuclear-weapon states are allowed to keep their nuclear weapons while other states are not allowed to acquire them. In addition, non-nuclear-weapon states have to let their nuclear facilities be inspected by the IAEA, while nuclear-weapon states do not.

It has also been argued that the nuclear-weapon states have not done enough to live up to Article VI of the NPT, which requires them to undertake negotiations to end the nuclear arms race and eventually disarm. This link between preventing the spread of nuclear weapons on the one hand, and reducing and eliminating existing nuclear weapons on the other, is often called the "bargain" of the NPT.

The claim that this bargain has not been kept was the source of much disagreement at the review conference of the NPT held this past August and September.

What is Canada's role in the NPT?

Canada does not have any nuclear weapons. Although Canada participated, with the United States and the United Kingdom, in the development of the first atomic weapon, we gave up our option to produce nuclear weapons. We were thus the first country with the knowledge to build nuclear weapons that decided not to acquire them.

Canada was extremely active in the negotiation of the NPT and was one of the first countries to sign the Treaty. We have been strong supporters of the NPT and continue to encourage other countries to sign it.

As a major supplier of nuclear material and technology for peaceful uses, Canada engages in nuclear trade only with countries that have signed the NPT (or made a similar binding commitment to non-proliferation) and accepted IAEA safeguards on their nuclear ac-

tivities. In addition, we have gone further than the NPT in drawing up specific Canadian requirements that must be accepted by countries seeking nuclear imports from Canada.

Canada accepts that the NPT is unequal, in that it sets out different obligations for nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear-weapon states. Canada believes that the security benefits of knowing that other non-nuclear-weapon states have legally committed themselves not to acquire nuclear weapons outweigh any disadvantages of having to submit to IAEA safeguards.

Like many other countries, Canada is disappointed that more rapid progress has not been made in ending the nuclear arms race and undertaking disarmament. However, Canada does not agree with the criticism that the nuclear-weapon states have not lived up to their commitments under Article VI of the NPT. The United States and the Soviet Union signed in 1987 the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, under which they agreed to get rid of all of their nuclear weapons with ranges between 500 and 5,500 km. They are now negotiating a treaty that would require deep cuts in their long-range or "strategic" (over 5,500 km) nuclear weapons. They hope to sign this treaty by the end of the year. Canada believes that it is only by having a strong NPT that the superpowers will be encouraged to go even further in reducing their nuclear arsenals.

Canada regards the NPT as the world's most important multilateral arms control agreement. It will continue to work towards strengthening the NPT, and towards encouraging all countries to sign and live up to it.

Portions of this article were drawn from Factsheet #10, published by the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security (CIIPS). CIIPS Factsheets provide short synopses of current issues in arms control, disarmament, defence and conflict resolution. They are designed primarily for senior secondary school students and teachers. For a list of available titles, write to CIIPS at 360 Albert Street, Suite 900, Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 7X7.

Acronyms

ASEAN — Association of South-East Asian Nations
 CD — Conference on Disarmament
 CFE — (Negotiation on) Conventional Armed Forces in Europe
 CSBM — confidence- and security-building measure
 CSCE — Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe
 CTBT — comprehensive test ban treaty
 CW — chemical weapons
 CWC — Chemical Weapons Convention
 DRES — Defence Research Establishment Suffield
 EAITC — External Affairs and International Trade Canada
 IAEA — International Atomic Energy Agency
 INF — intermediate-range nuclear forces
 MTCR — Missile Technology Control Regime
 NATO — North Atlantic Treaty Organization
 NIAG — NATO Industrial Advisory Group
 NPT — Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
 PTBT — Partial Test Ban Treaty
 SLCM — sea-launched cruise missile
 SNF — short-range nuclear forces
 SSSF — single, small-scale facility
 START — Strategic Arms Reduction Talks
 UNDC — United Nations Disarmament Commission
 UNGA — United Nations General Assembly
 WTO — Warsaw Treaty Organization ■

The Disarmament Bulletin is published four times per year by External Affairs and International Trade Canada. If you would like to be placed on our mailing list or require additional copies, please write to:

Editor, *The Disarmament Bulletin*
 Arms Control and Disarmament Division
 External Affairs and International Trade
 Canada
 125 Sussex Drive
 Ottawa, Ontario
 K1A 0G2

— ISSN 0715-7

This *Bulletin* is recycled and re-paper.

Cette publication également en

