

approach to armement reductions, states should continue to pursue the more traditional approach to arms control of seeking to limit and reduce military force levels. That approach also poses complex problems, but it is important that, wherever political circumstances are favourable, regional efforts be pursued to lower, or at least constrain, levels of military confrontation. We hope that the recent conclusion of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe will result not only in strengthening *détente* in Europe but also in substantial progress in the negotiations in Vienna toward force reductions in Central Europe. We hope the possibility of lowering military force levels can be pursued in other parts of the world to promote regional stability and mutual security.

During the past few years, examination has begun in the context of humanitarian law in armed conflict of the possibility of restricting or prohibiting the use of certain conventional weapons that may cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects. Canada is participating actively in the experts and diplomatic conferences dealing with this subject.

I have stressed the growing impatience and frustration felt by most countries -- and by Canada no less than any other country -- that international efforts to achieve arms control and disarmament measures have produced such meagre results. I have pointed to the special responsibility of the nuclear and other major military powers in promoting arms limitations and reductions. However, we must not throw up our hands in despair, no matter how acute our frustration and impatience may be. We have to recognize that arms limitation is a highly complex endeavour. Arms-control and disarmament measures cannot be effective unless they take full account of the security concerns of the states they affect, of related political conditions, of the complexities of steadily-advancing military technology and of the need for states to be adequately assured that the agreements they enter into will be fully implemented by all parties. But these are not reasons for inactivity. They do not excuse governments from showing greater determination in seeking to reduce the levels of their military forces and armaments. We must not accept the continuous growth and spread of armaments as inevitable. We must, in this Assembly, in all other disarmament forums in which we participate and in our collective and individual actions, reaffirm our commitment to the disarmament goal.

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