

Canada played an active part in the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons . We are heartened by the Conference Final Declaration -- by its strong reaffirmation of the principles of the Convention and its restatement of the common interest all share in strengthening the Convention's authority and effectiveness through promoting confidence and co-operation.

This activity shows that the world community is not indifferent or impotent in building a safer world. There is still much to do in the international arena and Canada, pledges, once again, to do everything in our power to strengthen the international machinery of peace. This world-wide activity must reinforce the efforts of the superpowers to find bilateral agreements. Although 86 per cent of the people of the world do not live in the United States or the Soviet Union, we are all caught up in the fall-out from this relationship of the two great superpowers who together possess 95 per cent of the more than 50,000 nuclear weapons in the world. Their relationship, as is obvious, affects everyone. It is in the interests of everyone to help improve the entire East-West relationship and, as the U.N. Secretary General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, said in his acceptance speech last Friday, to "demand of the Governments of States which possess nuclear weapons that they reflect upon their responsibility to their peoples and to the planet itself and pursue policies that will lead to the elimination of these weapons." It used to be said that history will be the judge of one's actions. But, in what we are discussing here, there will be no history to write in a non-future for human life if the means to destroy the human race, now in the possession of the two superpowers, should ever be unleashed.

The role of the United Nations in disarmament is to construct a viable framework of multilateral progress so as to enhance the prospect of major bilateral agreements. More attention should be paid in this Committee to consensus resolutions with as much substance as possible, rather than merely increasing the number of resolutions. At the 1976 session, there were 23 resolutions, eight of them consensus. Ten years later, in 1985, there were 66 resolutions, 20 by consensus. The growth of non-consensus resolutions, many of which cancel one another and split apart the Committee, is a dubious achievement and a complete puzzlement to the outside world. Let us not forget that the Final Document of the First