

The Consultative Group, traditionally an Ottawa-based assembly which meets twice a year under the chairmanship of the Ambassador for Disarmament, is composed of approximately 60 representatives of non-governmental organizations, academics, experts and individuals having an interest or expertise in the field of arms control and disarmament issues. In this International Year of Peace, Ambassador Roche decided to broaden the consultative process, to reach deeper into the regional communities and to involve and invigorate more Canadians on the important issue of the relationship between Disarmament and Development.

In each city, approximately 25 local participants were invited to a consultation. The principle criteria for extending invitations were as follows:

- one third representatives of traditional, prominent and emerging NGOs in both the disarmament and development fields;
- one third academic experts from the variety of disciplines which impinge on this issue eg. international relations, economics, history, agricultural science, philosophy etc;
- one third business/chamber of commerce and "strategic studies" representatives.

In this way, it was hoped that a balance of views and perspectives could be struck. As will be seen from the list of participants which follows each city report, the number of actual participants and backgrounds varied considerably from place to place.

Invited participants were provided, in advance, with some basic background reading in the form of U.N. documentation and other relevant material.*

* (i) Disarmament Fact Sheet: "Study on the Relationship Between Disarmament and Development: A Summary;" (ii) Disarmament Fact Sheet: "Study of the Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and of Military Expenditures: A Summary;" (iii) "Relationship Between Disarmament and Development: An Overview of United Nations Involvement;" (iv) Canadian Statement to the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on the Relationship Between Disarmament and Development; (v) United Nations Association in Canada: Briefing Paper, "International Year of Peace".