

developed or developing, would have the right to initiate the verification process and to obtain assistance, either bilaterally or through resort to an appropriate international mechanism, in carrying out the process of verification. We also sought language in Article III that would ensure that the special rights and interests of coastal states as recognized in international law could not in any way be encroached upon as a result of the provisions of this new treaty.

In two revised drafts, presented by the co-chairmen in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament on April 23 and September 1, amendments were effected in the treaty which were designed to gain for it the widespread adherence of governments necessary to make it an internationally effective arms-control agreement. Nevertheless, members of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament continued to express the opinion that the draft could be even further improved.

Compromise Wording

The draft now before us represents, in the opinion of the Canadian delegation, a real effort to meet not only the views of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament but also those of the members of the General Assembly in regard to the various issues which have been raised. Canada considers the amendments to Article III satisfactory, and in particular welcomes the revisions in Paragraph 5 providing for international assistance in the verification procedure "through appropriate international procedures within the framework of the United Nations and in accordance with its Charter". This compromise wording was worked out by nine non-aligned delegations at the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, and I should again like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to them, as well as to the co-chairmen, for their efforts in improving the original Canadian proposals.

We recognize, of course, that the text as it now exists represents a carefully balanced and negotiated compromise which involved months of concentrated efforts by all the members of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. We hope that this text will prove generally acceptable to other delegations and our delegation recommends its approval in its present form in order that it may be opened for signature without delay during this year of the Disarmament Decade.

On another disarmament issue, during the past year the Committee on Disarmament has continued its detailed study and discussion on measures to ban the development, production and stockpiling of chemical and biological weapons to supplement and strengthen the Geneva Protocol of 1925. These efforts were directed to the object of clarifying areas of concern or confusion as well as avenues that might usefully be further explored. As part of this process, the Canadian delegation to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament on March 24 of this year provided that body with a declaration of Canadian policy and intentions with respect to chemical and biological warfare.