

deals with facts, not with arguments, and for this reason is impartial. And impartiality is essential to building a climate of confidence.

The international community has used the United Nations to serve as witness to compliance with the provisions of a variety of agreements. In this connection, I should like to recall that next week will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the momentous resolution of the General Assembly calling upon the Secretary-General to establish the United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East to witness the cease-fire and withdrawal of forces. It seems to me, there is an appropriate analogy to be drawn between United Nations peace-keeping and what we hope will be an increasing role of the United Nations in serving as witness to compliance by parties to arms-limitation and disarmament agreements.

It has long been accepted that there is an international role in the verification of a nuclear test-ban treaty: co-operative seismic monitoring measures which have been under consideration by the *Ad Hoc* Group of Seismic Experts in Geneva. As we have said in the Committee on Disarmament, we believe that that Committee and the Seismic Experts Group can supplement in a very practical manner the efforts of the negotiating states and the national verification provisions.

Essential elements

The realization of a verifiable nuclear test-ban treaty is one of the four elements of the strategy of suffocation proposed by Prime Minister Trudeau at the first United Nations Special Session on Disarmament. I should like to recall that, in addition to a comprehensive test ban, he envisaged verifiable agreements, (a) banning the flight-testing of all new strategic delivery vehicles; (b) banning the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes and, (c) limiting and progressively reducing military spending on new strategic nuclear weapon systems. Conclusion of agreements on these four elements in combination would go a long way towards preventing both vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons. We recognize that much progress must be made in negotiations on nuclear forces between the Soviet Union and the United States before agreements can be realized on all four elements.

Nuclear weapons are not the only threat to international peace and security. The final document of the Special Session listed conventional forces among the priorities. We cannot ignore the vast array of conventional weapons to which 80 per cent of arms expenditures is directed. Canada is ready to participate in any serious effort to control conventional arms. In this regard, we hope that the study on conventional disarmament will be approved during the present session of the General Assembly by consensus, without resort to formal voting.

Chemical and toxin weapons

There has been progress recently on working towards the prohibition of chemical weapons, another high priority of Canada, which has continued to contribute the expertise it has gained from its research on defensive measures, means of destruction and verification. We are now working in co-operation with others to develop a draft resolution which will express the Assembly's desire to see progress quickened in the Committee on Disarmament towards such an agreement.

A closely related issue is that of the reports of the use of chemical weapons and, more

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