

CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL

Ambassador for Disarmament, (United Nations Disarmament Commission, New York, May 5, 1987)

Canada strongly supports an increased focus of international attention on the subject of conventional disarmament. At least 80% of global spending on arms is directed to conventional armaments. More than 20 million people have died in conflicts fought with conventional weapons since 1945. We believe it must be borne in mind, that as progress is made in achieving nuclear arms limitations, questions concerning levels of conventional weapons will become increasingly important.

Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, (McGill University Centre for Research in Air and Space Law Symposium on Space Surveillance for Arms Control and Verification, October 21, 1987)

Already, the pending INF agreement has triggered vigorous discussion about the most desirable combination of conventional and nuclear military forces which ought to be retained in order to preserve and strengthen stability in the European theatre, a debate which will predictably continue for some time. This increased awareness of the interrelationship between conventional and nuclear forces, particularly at the theatre level, has doubtless been one of the factors which has given impetus to the efforts to formulate a mandate for negotiations among members of the two major alliances, within the CSCE framework, on conventional force levels in Europe. At the strategic level, the USA and USSR have recognized in their own agreed negotiating mandate, the importance of giving attention to the balance between offensive and defensive forces. If we are successful, over the coming period, in moving toward significantly reduced reliance on nuclear weapons, those interrelationships among different kinds of force deployments, and related arms control measures, will acquire yet greater importance.

(SEE ALSO BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, CONFIDENCE BUILDING, AND STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE ON CONFIDENCE AND SECURITY BUILDING MEASURES-1986)

DEFENCE WHITE PAPER

Minister of National Defence, (House of Commons, Tabling of White Paper, Ottawa, June 5, 1987)

The main thrusts are, first, that Canada will continue to base its security policy on three pillars: the maintenance of an adequate defence; the pursuit of equitable and verifiable arms control and disarmament measures; and participation in