

## INDIA, ISRAEL AND PAKISTAN

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The Committee recommends that the Government of Canada continue to support all international efforts to address the underlying regional security issues in South Asia and the Middle East. Working with like-minded States, it should take a more proactive role in stressing the regional and global security benefits of immediately increasing communication and co-operation between States in those regions as a means of building trust.

In both regions — but particularly in South Asia given the recent nuclear tests — Canada should also stress: the freezing of nuclear weapon programs; adhering to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty and participating in the negotiation of the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty and; joining the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States.

### Response

The Government of Canada condemned the nuclear weapons tests conducted in May 1998 by India and Pakistan. We remain deeply worried about their implications for international security and for the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Consistent with UN Security Council Resolution 1172 adopted unanimously on June 6, 1998, the Government of Canada holds that Indian and Pakistani nuclear weapons programs must be rolled back and that the two states must sign and ratify the NPT as non-nuclear-weapon States.

The nuclear tests by India and Pakistan violated the norm against nuclear proliferation agreed by the vast majority of states. They raised the spectre of an arms race in South Asia and have reduced, not enhanced the security of Indians and Pakistanis and their neighbours, while costing vast resources infinitely better spent on the social and economic needs of the region.

Canada calls upon India and Pakistan to take concrete steps to meet the benchmarks established by UNSCR 1172 and endorsed by the international community. They are, *inter alia* to freeze their nuclear weapons programs; adhere to the CTBT; participate in the negotiation of an FMCT and agree to a moratorium on the production of fissile material; refrain from missile tests; institute and enforce sound export control with respect to sensitive technology and materials; and sign and ratify the NPT as non-nuclear weapon States. Through its participation in the international Senior Officials' Task Force created to address the Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests, Canada is co-ordinating with other like-minded States to urge the governments of India and Pakistan to take these steps. Reductions by the NWS of both their nuclear weapons inventories and the political value of nuclear weapons will also be key to halting nuclear weapons proliferation in South Asia and discouraging it from happening elsewhere.