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tests and international study of the future control of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. Canada also expressed the hope that the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in May 1975 would reaffirm the objectives of the treaty and promote wider adherence to it.

## Chemical and biological weapons

The use of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons is prohibited by the Geneva Protocol of 1925, but a few military powers have continued to develop, produce and stockpile chemical weapons. The Protocol was reinforced in 1972 by the negotiation in the CCD of a convention on the elimination of bacteriological weapons. The convention has been signed and ratified by a significant number of states including Canada, and was expected to enter into force in 1975. Discussions continued in the CCD on the contents of a parallel treaty that would prohibit the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons. Progress on this issue was slow, owing in part to the difficulty of devising adequate verification procedures that would be politically acceptable to all parties. There were also problems in defining substances that would be banned, and in determining with precision the nature of activities falling within the treaty's scope. The CCD continued in 1974 its useful examination of the question, considering in particular a number of its technical aspects. The delegation of Japan introduced a draft convention that outlined a possible formula whereby a comprehensive prohibition of chemical weapons could be negotiated in phases. Canada presented working papers on the problem of the definition of chemical incapacitating substances and on the means of destroying existing stocks of mustard gas. It also participated actively in an informal meeting of government experts on the subject of chemical weapons, convened by the CCD. The 29th UNGA again adopted with Canadian support a

resolution reaffirming the objective of prohibiting chemical weapons, urging governments to work toward this goal, requesting the CCD to continue its efforts in this regard and calling for the widest possible adherence to the treaty on bacteriological weapons.

## Conventional weapons

Pursuant to initiatives taken by several countries in the context of the Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian Law in Armed Conflict and at the UN General Assembly, the International Committee for the Red Cross convened in 1974 a Conference of Government Experts on certain conventional weapons. This conference was the first attempt on the part of the international community to consider possible prohibitions or restrictions on the use of conventional weapons which might cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effect on the civilian population. Among the categories of weapons considered at the conference were napalm and other incendiary weapons, high-velocity projectiles, and fragmentation weapons.

Canada has sought to encourage the international consideration of this question, to ensure that governments are provided with complete information as to the nature, use and effects of such weapons, and to that end it participated actively in the Conference of Government Experts. It was expected that in 1975 consideration would be given to specific proposals for the prohibition or restriction of the use of certain of these weapons.