

will eventually prove to be a turning-point in world history. The second important recent event was the coming into force of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which both Romania and Canada have ratified. In our view, this treaty constitutes the most significant concrete achievement to date in the field of arms control. These two developments are not unrelated, of course, particularly because, under Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, all parties - and particularly the nuclear powers - have undertaken to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear-arms race at an early date. Without ignoring the complexity of the problems that lie ahead, these developments surely do constitute an auspicious beginning for the 1970s, which the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed as a "Disarmament Decade". My Government assigned a very high priority to our efforts to contribute constructively to arms-control and disarmament negotiations and I am gratified that Canada and Romania have been able to co-operate so well in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva.

One cannot ignore the important role that China will play in the ultimate resolution of major world issues. We welcome the talks on border issues between the People's Republic of China and the U.S.S.R. and the recent talks between the United States and the People's Republic of China. As you know, for over a year Canadian and Chinese representatives have been meeting in Stockholm. We hope and expect that these will result in the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. In this regard, we have followed with interest the development of your relations with Peking. We hope that this is an encouraging indication of the possibility of expanding contacts with China, which we consider of the first importance if we are ever to achieve a stable and secure peace.

There are many other problems of direct concern to governments today. My Government is, as you are aware, compelled to be concerned about environmental problems such as pollution. We have recently introduced into the Canadian Parliament legislation aimed at safeguarding the vast natural resources of the Arctic area. It is the Canadian Government's view that all governments need now to strive as hard toward solving ecological and other environmental problems as toward international political problems.

In our political relations with Romania and in our respective views of the international situation, there are, of course, real differences. But, as I have indicated, there are also similarities and shared concerns. Because I hope it may further strengthen this foundation of our relations, I am grateful for the opportunity of this visit to Romania to meet with your statesmen, and for the privilege of addressing your organization .