

We prefer to see concrete agreements rather than declaratory resolutions which promise restraint but, in effect, do not provide for the means to ensure that promises are kept. Verification is a commonly-agreed necessity if we are to make real progress in disarmament and arms control negotiations. Agreement for the establishment of international verification mechanisms is one of the clearest indications of real intentions. We have, therefore, assigned a high priority to research in this area.

On October 20, the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan MacEachen, announced the establishment of an arms control and disarmament verification research program based in the Department of External Affairs. Additional personnel resources will be focussed in this area. An initial amount of \$500 000 has been allocated for this program. This amount will increase to \$1 million by next April.

This initiative has been undertaken in order to help in the creation of an atmosphere conducive to progress in disarmament. The verification program will focus primarily on technical aspects and will build upon the greatly increased attention we have been devoting to verification recently. The Compendium of Arms Control Verification Proposals, which we submitted to the Committee on Disarmament in 1980 and which was updated in 1982, and the resultant quantification and conceptual studies, are examples of our approach to the issues on a very practical and basic level. Canada has as well technical expertise — both in the private and public sectors — which can be applied in a number of areas including seismology, remote sensing, toxicology, communication satellites and chemical-weapons detection, destruction and defence. We intend to marshal this expertise more fully as our special contribution in support of the negotiation of agreements on nuclear, chemical and conventional weapons systems.

We shall be sharing the results of our work with the international community. We hope in this way to make a contribution to the technical needs of the arms control and disarmament process. But I would stress that the times demand that we also look beyond technicalities and focus on the need to develop confidence and dialogue; that those who would really make a contribution to arms control and disarmament should talk with each other and not past each other.

To return to a point I made at the outset of my remarks, there are few other issues on which so many in the West — and indeed elsewhere — have been so engaged as this matter. Given the implications of nuclear warfare, this preoccupation is entirely understandable and justified. We all want to see progress in arms controls and disarmament. The key lies in increasing mutual security. That will not be possible as long as *mutual suspicions about intentions remain*. The challenge facing us in trying to overcome this hurdle — and this is a point Prime Minister Trudeau made at Guelph — is in applying a political effort to points along the East-West trend-line in order to reverse it from its dangerous downward path.

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