

fortified if a new international consensus — however imperfect — can be forged on disarmament issues at UNSSOD III. The challenge of Canada's Government and NGOs is to make this happen.

The Consultative Group discussed three major themes, based on the anticipated organization of work at UNSSOD III: a review of past developments and appraisal of the present situation in the disarmament field; new developments and trends affecting the disarmament field; and disarmament machinery and education.

In general, participants recommended that Canada view the Special Session as an opportunity to affirm and renew the multilateral disarmament process and thus should seek consensus there. They strongly advised that the Prime Minister head the Canadian delegation to UNSSOD III, as an indication of the priority this country places on arms control and disarmament.

Participants agreed that recent progress in arms control, such as the treaty on intermediate-range nuclear forces, the Stockholm agreement on confidence- and security-building measures and the outcome of the UN disarmament conference should be endorsed, but noted this should not obscure the need to shore up other arms control regimes, such as the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, and to take further steps toward disarmament. The need for a comprehensive test ban and a chemical weapons ban was emphasized and many suggestions were offered on how UNSSOD III could aid their attainment. Canada was urged to support the application of confidence-building measures in other regions of the world.

Participants expressed much concern about the qualitative dimension of the arms race and recommended that Canada put forward arms control proposals that address technological advances in both nuclear and conventional weaponry. Several participants opposed Canada's apparent abandonment of the strategy of suffocation and called on the Government to reconsider this strategy, particularly the aspect of a ban on flight testing of nuclear weapon



*Mr. Fred Bild, Assistant Deputy Minister, Political and International Security Affairs, Department of External Affairs.*

delivery systems, as a means of limiting nuclear weapon modernization.

The group emphasized the need for qualitative and quantitative limits on conventional forces. It was recommended that Canada reaffirm the importance of the UN's established matrix for reports on military expenditures, encourage all states to file such reports, and support efforts to establish an international arms trade registry. Participants also recommended that UNSSOD III attempt to set in motion serious efforts toward naval arms limitations.

There was general interest in a multilateral agency for the verification of arms control and disarmament agreements. The group recommended that Canada give special emphasis to exploring the possibilities for an international verification network, perhaps under UN auspices.

Participants opined that the problems facing multilateral disarmament are not due simply to a lack of political will, but also to the need for procedural and organizational reform of disarmament machinery. Canada should strive toward this.

It was recommended that Canada look for ways in which the UN role in war prevention and conflict resolution could be strengthened. It was also suggested that the UN develop and broaden its facilities for the application of innovative confidence-building techniques.

Participants endorsed the Government's intention to help the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs (DDA) maintain its present status. There was strong support for the idea of an orientation and training program for NGOs implemented by the DDA; participants called on Canada to assist in the establishment of such a program. In addition, most participants thought Canada's support for the World Disarmament Campaign should remain firm. □

## **Canada Contributes Further to Peacekeeping Operations**

### ***Afghanistan and Pakistan***

In April 1988, for the 17th time since 1945, Canada responded positively to another request by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to participate in a new peacekeeping operation. On May 2, 1988, five Canadian officers arrived in Islamabad, Pakistan to serve in the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP), which will oversee the implementation of agreements relating to Afghanistan, including monitoring the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

This new United Nations operation has been set up in accordance with the terms of the Geneva agreements signed April 14, 1988 by representatives of Pakistan, Afghanistan, the United States and the Soviet Union. UNGOMAP consists of 50 military officers under the command of a Finnish officer, Major-General Rauli Helminen. The other contributors to the force are Austria, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, Ireland, Nepal, Poland and Sweden.

### ***Iran-Iraq***

On August 9, 1988, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Perrin Beatty, announced that Canada had agreed to participate in the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) operating between Iran and Iraq. The Force is being established to assist in the implementation of a cease-