external actors, and to weaken the forces of extremism. In Lebanon, however, the impasse continued and the prospect of anarchy remained. Canadian observers are not stationed in Lebanon, but are now part of the new UN presence on the Iran/Iraq border, continuing an honourable tradition.

Arms control and defence

The quickening pace of change in Soviet policies on arms control and disarmament was climaxed at the end of the year by decisions to reduce Soviet forces by some ten percent of total armed forces, and to withdraw six tank divisions from Europe. These decisions augur well for the forthcoming talks on conventional forces in Europe. Ratification of the INF Treaty in the spring was followed by further evidence of Soviet willingness to comply with strict verification provisions. Indeed, the issue of verification is now a technical rather than a political issue, and Canadian efforts in this area have helped to bring solutions closer. As noted earlier, however, much remains to be done. The goal of a comprehensive Test Ban (CTB) is still a distant prospect, and at the UN there was no consensus on ways of dealing with nuclear arms control. The militarization of space continues. Given this impasse, major non-aligned countries are not prepared to accept restrictions on conventional arms production or transfers. UNSSOD III failed to agree on a final document in June.

Western defence policies, including those of Canada, will have to be reconsidered in the light of Soviet "new thinking." The Defence White Paper of 1987 set ambitious goals requiring a long-term commitment to real annual growth in the defence budget of at least two percent. While these goals were not the subject of extensive debate during the election campaign, it is not at all certain that the costs