

Group of Scientific Experts expands to begin to establish the architecture of the overall verification regime, including a package of measures that goes beyond seismic and includes some non-seismic measures as well. Canada has been actively involved in this work and intends to continue to be fully engaged in the elaboration of the verification regime....

Again this brings me back to the question of what role for this body? Canada agrees fully with those before me who have suggested that informal meetings such as this one can be a helpful tool in monitoring developments in the Geneva negotiation and — I might add — in keeping their negotiating feet to the proverbial fire! Like my New Zealand colleague, I too would regard a message from you, Mr. President, to the CD on the outcome of these and any further consultations as a helpful step. We also would not want to prejudge what role the PTBT Amendment Conference might have further down the road as substantial progress is made in the CD negotiation.

In closing, Mr. President, let me pledge the full cooperation of my delegation in working with you to ensure that this process contributes in as positive manner as possible towards the achievement of our shared goal — a CTBT. ■

NPT Extension Preparations

The first Preparatory Committee meeting for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) extension process took place in New York from May 10 to 14. The Canadian delegation to the meeting was led by Ambassador for Disarmament Peggy Mason. Parties made useful progress on several procedural matters, including setting the dates of succeeding Preparatory Meetings and of the Extension Conference itself (April 17 to May 12, 1995, in New York). A number of crucial decisions remain to be taken regarding rules of procedure and decision-making (voting or consensus), participation of non-parties and non-governmental organizations, agenda and documentation. The next Preparatory Committee meeting will be held in New York from January 17 to 21, 1994. ■

UNDC Produces Mixed Results

The 1993 session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) was held in New York from April 19 to May 10. The Commission dealt with three items: nuclear disarmament; regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security; and the role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields. There was no noticeable progress on the nuclear disarmament item. Developments on the other two items, in which the Canadian delegation led by Ambassador for Disarmament Peggy Mason played an active role, are discussed below.

Regional Disarmament

The 1993 session saw the successful conclusion of a three-year UNDC study on "Guidelines and Recommendations for Regional Approaches to Disarmament within the Context of Global Security." The final report is divided into four sections:

- Relationship Between Regional Disarmament, Arms Limitation and Global Security;
- Principles and Guidelines;
- Ways and Means; and
- Role of the United Nations.

An annex lists various regional confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs).

The report's first section outlines a conceptual approach to regional arms control and disarmament initiatives which seeks to ensure that such initiatives complement existing or proposed global agreements or initiatives. This was not contentious.

The second section was the subject of some debate. A few countries sought to introduce language that would have had the effect of making the elimination of nuclear weapons the most pressing regional arms control and disarmament goal in all areas of the world. Others argued that such an approach would have been overly prescriptive in that nuclear weapons are not the dominant regional security concern in every region. Some regions, for example, are under far greater threat from chemical weapons or from an excessive build-up of conventional arms. For this reason, compromise language was eventually found which says that each region should define the greatest threat to it and act accordingly.

The third section outlines a number of tools available in the pursuit of enhanced regional security. These range from CSBMs to arms control and disarmament agreements, to zones of peace, to zones free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, to consultative and cooperative arrangements. The report recognizes several new approaches in each of these areas. In the field of CSBMs, for example, emphasis is placed on the development of agreements in the environmental and economic areas as these affect security. The report also recognizes the danger that weapons made redundant by arms control and disarmament agreements in one region could then be sold into another.

The final section of the report is not as comprehensive as Canada would have liked. The only roles for the UN that could be agreed by consensus were in such areas as facilitating regional dialogues already underway and acting as an information repository and convener of conferences and workshops.

Another disappointment to Canada is the fact that the report does not mention by name the existing multilateral non-proliferation agreements. The Canadian delegation, along with many others, argued that these should be included as they make a profound contribution to regional and global security. They also act as a starting point for the consideration of any regional non-proliferation agreements. The very small number of states that stand outside of these widely accepted global norms would not agree to their inclusion, however.

Despite these disappointments, the Canadian delegation, which helped to forge the compromises that made the final report possible, is pleased with the outcome. The report as a whole represents movement in the area of regional arms control and disarmament and security. The very fact that the UNDC spent three years examining the question demonstrates the importance many Member States attach to it. Ideas and action in this area are certain to evolve, and Canada will work to ensure that the progress contained in the report is used as a basis for further developments.