

thirty-sixth General Assembly (UNGA XXXVI). One of the main problems with the UNDC appears to be its inability to focus on a manageable number of subjects in the short time available to it, and its tendency to discuss unrealistically wide subjects, or peripheral ones.

UNGA XXXVI could be termed a transitional session for arms control and disarmament issues. Little was accomplished as the mood appeared to favour leaving serious discussion to UNSSOD II. Of the 49 arms control and disarmament resolutions considered in the First Committee -- surpassing the number of resolutions at previous sessions -- an unusually high proportion were of a procedural nature; and there was a greater number than usual of competing resolutions on the same subjects. Divergent approaches to the same issue tended to replace the more usual efforts to achieve compromise on draft texts. Reflecting the government's commitment to the strategy of suffocation and to the evolution of an effective non-proliferation régime, Canada again introduced a resolution calling on the Committee on Disarmament to consider, at the appropriate time, the subject of an agreement to ban the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes; and co-sponsored a resolution calling for a comprehensive test ban. Canada co-sponsored two resolutions on chemical weapons and resolutions on the reduction of military budgets and on outer space. Canada also co-sponsored resolutions on two recently completed UN disarmament studies in each of which a Canadian expert had participated: confidence-building measures; and the relationship between disarmament and development. In connection with the latter, the Department financed the writing of a popular version of the report.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Canadian membership in NATO as a collective defence organization and forum for political consultations has been a major factor in the conduct of our foreign policy since the alliance's inception more than 30 years ago. Canada's defence commitment to NATO is based on the premise that in contributing to the direct defence of Europe, Canada is also contributing to its own defence. Founded on the principle of co-operation among the European member nations, the United States and Canada, and the indivisibility of the defence of its two continental sectors, the alliance has served its members well in safeguarding peace for three decades.

Throughout the years the alliance's consultative process has provided NATO countries with the essential framework for exchanging views and seeking consensus on important issues having a direct bearing on the East-West relationship. In 1981 at the regular ministerial meetings of the North Atlantic Council (in Rome in May and at NATO headquarters, Brussels, in December) the Afghanistan crisis, the continuing Warsaw Pact arms build-up and the threat hanging over Poland of a possible Soviet military intervention featured prominently in the foreign ministers' discussions. The December meeting, which took place just two days prior to the imposition of martial law by Polish authorities, provided an opportunity to devote particular attention to the Polish situation. Other centres of attention in NATO consultations during 1981 were the Madrid meeting of the CSCE, which resumed