

greater than that because then there is no way of enforcing the judgment which an international court may give.

But of those three foundations of peace, the one I want to talk about primarily tonight is the element of arms control, although from time to time I will come back to the subject of deterrence.

Arms control

Because the dangers of nuclear war are real, the government attaches great importance to arms control and disarmament policy. Nuclear war is neither imminent nor inevitable. But it cannot be ruled out. No power wants general war. But global politics reflect increasingly the strains to peace which derive from resource imbalances, population pressures and technological and cultural change. Sometimes it results from sheer bad will or from the determination of some countries, such as Vietnam or the Soviet Union, to overrun and subjugate neighbouring countries. In these circumstances, we note that the countries are usually weak and not closely connected with other great powers, or are assumed not to have any strong links with countries which would protect them militarily. (In the case of Vietnam, however, that did involve them for a while at least in a conflict with China, which was potentially very serious for them.) But basically the risks of war are risks of inadvertent conflict caused either by miscalculation or by an escalation process that slips out of control.

If we add to these possibilities the inescapable advance of weapons modernization and the spread of the capacity to make nuclear weapons to more states or determined groups of individuals, we face a grim prospect. And we have no choice, we think, except on the one hand to continue to try to be prepared to deter any attack and, on the other hand, to control and reduce the weapons that are the greatest danger.

Continuing discussions

Despite the present poor climate of East-West relations, 1980 is a particularly active year in the field of arms control and disarmament. Talks between the superpowers on a test ban and on the use of chemical weapons are continuing. A review conference on the Biological Weapons Convention took place in March. The Second Review Conference on the Non-Proliferation Treaty will begin in August; and the United Nations Weapons Conference reconvenes in September. The Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, which is scheduled to begin in Madrid in November, will be devoted, in part, to security issues. Finally, the negotiations on Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions in Europe continue in Vienna.

In the Committee on Disarmament, where Canada is one of the 40 members, to date this year there have been potentially two significant developments. The first is the decision of China to take its seat on the Committee, so that all five nuclear powers are now present. The second is the establishment of four working groups to address such specific subjects as bans on chemical weapons and on radiological weapons. The Committee on Disarmament, as you know, is a negotiating body and its highest priority is a treaty to ban nuclear testing. It has not been able to move faster, however, than the nuclear weapons states will allow it to go. Unfortunately, as a result of the invasion of Afghanistan, progress in all of these negotiations will be slower than we would have otherwise anticipated. But we believe that they must be pursued with some sense of urgency. In the meantime, our priorities remain the same.