

Canada also views the achievement of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTB) as a priority objective for the international community. There are many difficulties in concluding a CTB, some political, others technical. Nevertheless we believe that a Comprehensive Test Ban is a concrete, realistic and realizable measure which would constitute a major step in curbing the development of new and more sophisticated nuclear weapons. We believe, furthermore, that the way to achieve it is through practical, step-by-step measures in the Conference on Disarmament which might bring closer the day when a Test Ban could be implemented. Canada is working, day by day, often quietly in the U.N. system to achieve this.

In this, the year of the Third Review Conference of the NPT, a CTB takes on even more importance if the non-nuclear weapons states are to take seriously nuclear weapons states' declarations that they are limiting, or intend to limit, vertical proliferation. As Javier Perez de Cuellar, Secretary-General of the United Nations, has pointed out, "No single multilateral agreement could have a greater effect on limiting the development of nuclear weapons."

Although nuclear weapons pose the greatest potential threat, non-nuclear, conventional weapons have been the sole cause of all deaths in armed conflict since the end of the Second World War. Today's conventional weapons range from incendiary bombs, bullets and heat-seeking missiles to napalm and chemical weapons. These weapons are almost as indiscriminate in their destruction as would be nuclear weapons.

A recent U.N. study revealed that there have been 154 armed conflicts since 1945, taking 21 million lives. The study put the average death toll from armed conflict at between 33,000 to 41,000 people a month since 1945 -- and three out of every five of these fatalities were civilians. During 1983, 40 separate major and minor conflicts were identified in which approximately four million soldiers were fighting in 75 different countries. In 1984, fully 80 percent of the world's total military expenditure of more than \$800 billion was for conventional weapons and forces.

It would be negligent of any government concerned about stopping the arms race to focus exclusively on nuclear weapons, thus ignoring the very real destructive power of conventional weapons.

The Final Document of the First United Nations Special Session on Disarmament in 1978, adopted by an "historic consensus," provided a Programme of Action and priorities for