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# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

Statement to the United Nations  
Pledging Conference  
for the World Disarmament Campaign,  
Delivered by Mr. Douglas Roche,  
Ambassador for Disarmament

Canada

NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

October 28, 1986

When the World Disarmament Campaign was launched in June, 1982, Canada immediately saw the benefit of a world-wide program committed to informing, educating, and generating public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. From our own national experience, we in Canada have learned the essential lesson of the peace dialogue: no one is exempt from this important discussion, and the more educated the global community is about the multi-faceted dimensions of peace, the closer we are to the goal of mutual understanding and co-operation. In this regard, our task in the field of arms control and disarmament has been aided by the efforts of the World Disarmament Campaign.

The Canadian Government supports the education and information goals of the Campaign and to this end, during its first three years, we donated \$300,000. This amount has turned out to be more than 20 per cent of the total convertible pledges received by the Campaign. Canada remains committed to informed public opinion and a better understanding of the work of the United Nations in the field of arms control and disarmament.

This year, I am pleased to announce that Canada will contribute another \$50,000 to the objectives of the World Disarmament Campaign, through our continuing support of the following activities:

- \$25,000 to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in support of its research in the field of verification, an area which is of particular interest to Canada and in which we have made some noteworthy contributions;
- \$25,000 in support of information activities by the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs. In particular, we would wish that this amount be used towards all aspects of the production and distribution of the UN Disarmament Yearbook, thereby reducing its price per copy and making it more accessible to publics all over the world.

We in Canada believe that the Campaign should not be looked upon as a short-term project; world opinion on arms control and disarmament can be changed only through a continuing process of working towards international peace and security. Thus, we want to encourage other Member States to contribute to the Campaign, thereby extending its activities. As one of the larger donors, we can say with some confidence that our investment has been worthwhile; the list of publications and information activities cited in the Report of the Secretary-General on the World Disarmament Campaign (document A/41/554) attests to the UN's commitment to discuss international peace and security "on a universal basis, in a balanced, factual, and objective manner."

Canada has noted the complete presentation in the 1986 Campaign report, particularly in the last section detailing the breakdown of pledges and expenditures. We support the continuation of such detailed reporting and hope those Members who are deciding on the merits of a pledge will refer to this report as a basis for participation in the Campaign.

Among the projects undertaken by the World Disarmament Campaign are the helpful publications put out by the Department for Disarmament Affairs. We have found the UN Disarmament Yearbook, the Factsheets, and Disarmament - A Periodic Review by the UN to be particularly useful publications and we encourage continued funding which would allow for the publication of more issues per year.

We would also like to make particular reference to the successful Regional Conference held last spring in Tbilisi, Georgian SSR. Canada attended this meeting and would like to commend the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Government of the USSR for the organization of this event. We hope such conferences will continue and we support the initiative of the Chinese government in offering to host the next meeting.

As a country deeply concerned about international peace and security, Canada also helps to develop informed public opinion on arms control and disarmament issues in our own country through the establishment of the Disarmament Fund, which has provided nearly \$2 million over the last three years to non-governmental organizations, researchers, and private individuals undertaking balanced research and discussion in the field of international peace and security. Last fiscal year, over \$570,000 was granted to more than 35 groups and individuals involved in organizing conferences or seminars, research, and in publishing information material.

Among the main meetings assisted by the Disarmament Fund is the Consultative Group--consisting of representatives from non-governmental organizations, members of peace associations, academics, and private individuals--which meets periodically with officials of the Department of External Affairs and other interested Departments to exchange views on Canada's policies on arms control and disarmament. This year, the Fund also sponsored several members of the Consultative Group to come to New York during the 41st UN General Assembly, thus enabling the Group to extend its knowledge of the complicated multilateral field of arms control and disarmament.

The Canadian Government also funds the Canadian Institute of International Peace and Security, an independent institute devoted to Canadian research and public information. This year, the grant is more than \$3 million, increasing to \$5 million annually by 1988. Another organization which receives funding (a standing grant of \$100,000 per annum) is the Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament, a privately-run research centre based in Ottawa.

In 1986, Canada gave special attention to the International Year of Peace. From the Disarmament Fund, we contributed \$10,000 to the Voluntary Fund of the IYP. We commemorated International Peace Day on September 16 through a ceremony under the bells of the Peace Tower in Ottawa; as well, the Government of Canada issued a stamp and a gold coin. Throughout the year, there have been numerous conferences and seminars addressing the multidimensional nature of peace --incorporating the traditional issues of arms control and disarmament with the protection of the global environment, the ongoing efforts in social and economic development, and the urgent affirmation of universal justice.

In brief, Canada supports a dialogue which will move us closer to common security. Thus, we laud and support the important efforts of the UN in promoting global communication on an issue which touches every single human being.