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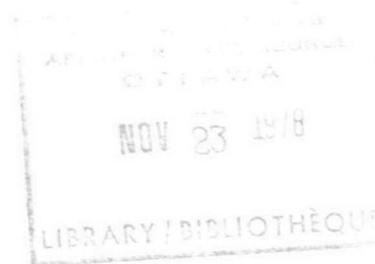
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"DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL"

SUMMARY OF A STATEMENT BY
THE ADVISER ON DISARMAMENT AND
ARMS CONTROL AFFAIRS, MR. G.A.H. PEARSON
TO THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE XXXIII REGULAR
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 21, 1978



Complete text of statement and/or further information can be obtained by contacting the Department of External Affairs' Press Office (FPR), 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2. Telephone: (613) 995-1874.

"Arms control measures are clearly vital. But we must move on and move soon to real disarmament if we are to keep control of the human future itself", declared Mr. G.A.H. Pearson, Adviser on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs. He was speaking today in the First Committee debate on disarmament at the UN General Assembly in New York.

Mr. Pearson reiterated that Canada believes "there cannot be any long-term solution to the problem of horizontal proliferation unless the two major nuclear powers succeed in halting and reversing vertical proliferation, as they are pledged to do by Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty". He also stated Canada's earnest hope that the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks will soon lead to an agreement.

In keeping with Canada's long-standing concerns, Mr. Pearson stated that a comprehensive test ban should be pursued as a matter of urgency as stipulated in paragraph 51 of the Final Document of the UNGA Tenth Special Session on Disarmament. Since the negotiations now being pursued by the USA, the UK and the USSR are apparently close to conclusion, we are looking forward to early consideration of the results in the Committee on Disarmament.

Mr. Pearson noted the renewed interest in the concept of the cessation of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes, subject to the application of effective verification measures. Together with the comprehensive test ban treaty this concept was one of the elements of the "strategy of suffocation" which Prime Minister Trudeau outlined to the Special Session in May of this year. The objective of this proposal should be the elaboration by the Committee on Disarmament of an adequately verifiable multilateral treaty. This would have the advantage of focussing in the same instrument on both the vertical and horizontal dimensions of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and would bind both nuclear and non-nuclear weapons states to the same full-scope safeguards accepted by the non-nuclear weapons states party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Two other elements of the Prime Minister's "strategy" referred to by Mr. Pearson were the need for the conclusion of agreements to stop flight-testing of all new strategic delivery vehicles and to limit and then progressively to reduce military spending on all new strategic nuclear weapon systems, these measures coupled with the proper verification procedures.

Balanced reductions of military expenditures in a bilateral, regional or even worldwide context were also singled out as areas that could have considerable benefits. Necessary conditions for progress in these areas would be greater willingness to make information available and the need for adequate verification.

Mr. Pearson recalled that four-fifths of the \$400 billion spent on weapons each year is spent on so-called conventional weapons. The Committee on Disarmament should give more attention to this subject with the objective of achieving the same security at a lower level of armaments, introducing restraints on production as well as on transfers.

In the name of Canada Mr. Pearson referred to the unique example in the field of regional approaches to disarmament given to the rest of the international community by Latin American countries by means of the Tlatelolco Treaty and the Ayacucho Declaration. Another example he referred to was the confidence-building measures incorporated into the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Pending the production by the USA and the USSR of a joint initiative on a treaty on chemical weapons for submission to the Committee on Disarmament, Mr. Pearson repeated Canada's strong hope that when the Committee meets early in the new year, it will start work on areas where there is already a large measure of agreement, such as the scope of a future treaty.