

US vice-president visits Canada

United States Vice-President George Bush visited Ottawa, March 23-24, to discuss a number of bilateral and international issues with Canadian ministers.

Mr. Bush held talks with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan MacEachen, other Canadian ministers and senior government officials. He also had lunch with members of the Cabinet and was honoured at a dinner attended by Prime Minister Trudeau and 400 guests.

The primary purpose of the visit was for Canadian and US officials to consult on nuclear arms and on related security issues — issues that confront both countries as North American allies and as members of the NATO alliance.

The visit also allowed an opportunity for Mr. Bush and his Canadian hosts to discuss the bilateral relationship, including agriculture, fisheries, trade, energy and environment questions.

In a news conference following the meetings, Vice-President Bush said that his discussions with the prime minister and Cabinet members had been "fruitful". He added that "the United States values highly Canada's counsel as a neighbour, as an ally and as a friend".

"Our bilateral relationship as a whole remains sound.... Differences persist on some issues but these are being addressed in the spirit, not only of frankness but of friendliness that traditionally characterizes the dealings between Canada and the



Mr. Bush addresses guests at a dinner in his honour while Mr. Trudeau looks on.

United States," said Mr. Bush.

Prime Minister Trudeau, in a speech given at the dinner, said that "in our bilateral and other discussions we have sought together ways in which we could co-operate to strengthen what we hope to be the beginning of a period of economic growth. And it is certain that we go into that period together, not only as friends and neighbours and allies — which we are, and that is more than a matter of geography and history — we go into it as two nations which are not built on race or creed or class but built on the belief in the fundamental value of the human being and of the liberty we strive for".



Prime Minister Trudeau (right) speaks with Vice-President Bush (centre) and Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs MacEachen.

On the subject of nuclear disarmament and the arms race, Mr. Trudeau said that during the talks they discussed NATO's stand on medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. The prime minister said that if the zero option is not attainable "we should be looking at something which is perhaps second best in terms of what is desirable. No arms are better than some arms. But if agreement is possible at a lower level than the one we have now, I think you would find us supporting it".

Secretary of State for External Affairs MacEachen said that the Canadian government wanted to explore with the US administration the necessity of offering alternatives to the zero option which might lead to an interim agreement providing for the least possible number of missiles in Europe.

The issue of testing the unarmed Cruise missile in Canada was also discussed by Vice-President Bush and the Canadian ministers. In February, Canada signed an agreement with the US providing the framework which will enable Canada to consider a wide range of specific test and evaluation proposals which may be put forward by the US. Project arrangements would need to be concluded to authorize each individual testing project which may be approved by Canada. The US has not yet proposed the negotiation of a project arrangement for the flight testing of unarmed Cruise missiles in Canada.

Special measures for Iranians

Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy has announced new special measures allowing Iranian visitors and minister's permit holders in Canada to apply for permanent residence without leaving the country.

About half of the 2 000 Iranians expected to benefit from these measures are students whose funding has been cancelled by the Iranian government.

Under this special program, Iranian visitors, students and minister's permit holders, will be allowed to apply for landing under two categories: if they have relatives here both able and willing to assist them; or if they have been here a minimum of 12 months and can demonstrate their ability to settle in Canada successfully. These measures parallel those introduced to assist Poles, Salvadorans and Lebanese, except that they only apply to persons inside Canada.