

We will watch developments closely and work in the CSCE [Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe] and the North Atlantic Co-operation Council to promote stability.

I must be very frank and tell you that Canada disagrees strongly with those Ukrainian parliamentarians who ratified the START 1 [Strategic Arms Reduction Talks] treaty only conditionally. We welcome President Kravchuk's assurances that he will re-submit the START 1/NPT [Non-Proliferation Treaty] package for unconditional ratification right after Ukraine's March parliamentary elections.

As a non-nuclear weapons state, Canada is limited in the assistance that it can provide for actual dismantlement of missiles and warheads. We do have expertise, however, that could help Ukraine cope with the safety and environmental consequences of its Soviet nuclear inheritance.

Ukraine's security has become a global concern. I discussed the issues with Mr. Zlenko and Mr. Kozyrev in Rome earlier this month and came away convinced that Canada could help. As a G-7 [Group of Seven (leading industrialized nations)] and NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] member and one of Russia's privileged dialogue partners, Canada is well-placed to play the role of facilitator. This is something in which I am personally interested. I plan to visit Moscow and Kiev in 1994 in order to help get things started and to find some concrete solutions.

The bedrock of any country's stability is ultimately its economy. It is critical that we in the West turn our attention to integrating an industrial state of 53 million into the world economy and multilateral system.

Next year's G-7 Summit in Italy should have Ukraine as a focus. To prepare the way, Canada will encourage the opening of a high-level G-7 dialogue with Kiev.

The Soviet Union left Ukraine a disastrous economic legacy: the Chernobyl tragedy, big wasteful factories producing things nobody wants and inefficient collective farms. These are formidable challenges. With the right mix of policies and assistance, however, they can be met.

With the difficult economic situation that Ukraine is facing this winter, some in government have been tempted to try and buy time by retreating into past certainties and centralized state control. Yet, the experience of all other economies in transition tells us that there is no way back.