

- Both sides have an interest in avoiding the spread of nuclear weapons to other countries, so-called horizontal proliferation.
- Both sides have come to a guarded recognition of each other's legitimate security interests.
- Both sides realize that their security strategies cannot be based on the assumed political or economic collapse of the other side.

These principles, reflected in the Gorbachev-Reagan Summit statement, broaden the perspective of East-West relations and stimulate greater international effort in the search for a durable peace.

In his first speech immediately after assuming office in September, 1984, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney reiterated the commitment of the Canadian government to work effectively within the world's multilateral forums to reduce tensions, alleviate conflict and create the conditions for a lasting peace. He said:

"There can be no let up in our efforts to reduce the threat of war. No matter how frustrating or difficult, negotiations must be pursued...The exercise of political will is nowhere more important than on this issue on whose outcome the lives of our children and humanity depend."

And he added:

"No matter how much we may accomplish here in Canada, I will have failed in my most cherished ambition if under my leadership Canada has not helped reduce the threat of war and enhance the promise of peace."

External Affairs Minister Joe Clark carried the Government's commitment into the global community when he stated in an address to the 39th General Assembly of the United Nations:

"Canada, for its part, is determined to continue to play a leading role in the search for peace and disarmament. We believe the nuclear build-up threatens the life of every Canadian, and the existence of human society. Countries like our own must use influence to reverse that build-up and reduce the danger of destruction. That will be a constant, consistent, dominant priority of Canadian foreign policy."

Canada has a long, constructive history of active engagement with the most important global issues. This tradition was outlined by Mr. Clark in the foreword to the Government's Green Paper on foreign policy: