

NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINES

Minister of National Defence

(House of Commons, Tabling of White Paper, Ottawa, June 5, 1987)

The navy vessels which we are planning to acquire will be delivered through the next decade and beyond and will last, and represent Canada's naval capability, well into the next century. Our studies have shown us that in that time frame the most effective way of conducting anti-submarine warfare operations in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans would be with a balanced Maritime force comprising surface vessels with helicopters, nuclear-powered submarines and Maritime patrol aircraft. This balance is now lacking. Such a balanced fleet mix will also offer Canada the option of submarine operations under the ice of her northern waters.

(SEE ALSO DEFENCE WHITE PAPER, NORTH, NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) AND SECURITY POLICY)

NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE

Minister of National Defence

(Empire Club, Toronto, January 18, 1987)

Would the declaration of Canada as a nuclear-weapon-free zone make Canadians safer? Unfortunately, such a unilateral act does not provide the security its advocates suggest. A nation of nuclear-free zones is not a nuclear-weapon-safe nation. Such a declaration would not by itself eliminate a single nuclear weapon or reduce the differences which divide East and West. Indeed, as the Toronto Sun observed, "it serves more to comfort our enemies and confound our allies". I do not believe that any worthy aim would be achieved by divorcing Canada from weapons and policies which, despite our action, would continue to provide security to Canadians. Along with all our NATO partners, we have rejected this course as illusory.

(SEE ALSO NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) AND SECURITY POLICY)

OBJECTIVES

Prime Minister, (North Atlantic Assembly, Quebec City, May 23, 1987)

Within the field of arms control and disarmament our Government has six specific objectives:

- negotiated radical reductions in nuclear forces and the enhancement of stability;