

The responsibilities on the shoulders of you and your colleagues for peace, détente and constructive international harmony, are enormous. No one under-estimates the heavy responsibility which the Soviet Union has to bear in securing the world's future. But we are all in the search for peace together and, only together, can we create the atmosphere necessary to reduce tensions and to develop genuine cooperation.

Many would question me on why there is room for optimism. Our views on human rights vary substantially, as reflected at the Madrid Meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Your troops remain in Afghanistan. Events in Poland continue to concern us. Soviet military deployments threaten the security of the West and contribute a dangerous element to the arms race.

Is our perception wrong? We hear constantly of the Soviet desire for peace. We are intimately aware of the suffering and tragedy which the Soviet Union has experienced throughout its history. We acknowledge the depth of your feelings and your profound concern about security. But it is important to understand that our concern is no less strong and that the purchase of security for one state at the cost of security for others leads inevitably to greater insecurity for all.

The Geneva negotiations on Intermediate Nuclear Forces are a test of whether greater mutual security can be achieved through negotiation. Both President Reagan and General Secretary Andropov have indicated they are prepared to show flexibility in the search for an agreement. We, in Canada, look for further steps toward that goal in the near future. For the moment, the fact is that your intermediate-range missiles are already deployed in large numbers and pose a serious threat. You should be aware that Canada shares the determination of the western alliance to re-establish a balance should the negotiations fail.

The question of nuclear forces shows how crucial is the political challenge facing our two nations and our respective allies -- a challenge to begin again the rebuilding of confidence and détente and to remove the mistrust and suspicion which exist between us. Canada believes that ways must be sought to improve the dialogue between East and West -- to show to all our peoples that, with determination and goodwill, progress can be made toward greater cooperation and security.