

the problem of verification of mobile ICBMs.¹

In response to a question following the Summit's conclusion, General-Secretary Gorbachev stated that a START agreement in 1988 could not be ruled out:

I am sure that there still is a possibility to achieve a treaty this year and I'm reinforced in this optimism by the headway we have made...and also the exchange of views here....It gives me grounds to voice such an optimistic assessment.²

Current Canadian Position

Following the signing of the INF agreement on 8 December 1987, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney expressed the Government's views on the developments in arms control that took place at the Washington Summit:

Security is indivisible. The elimination of intermediate-range weapons benefits all Western countries. But the weapons that directly threaten Canada - destabilizing intercontinental missiles, as well as nuclear-armed submarines and bombers - are not affected by this agreement. We therefore especially welcome the progress that has been made on strategic weapons at this Summit. Canada hopes that the INF Treaty will now provide the momentum for reducing the huge number of nuclear weapons that remain, and lead to an agreement in Moscow next spring. This would meet the fundamental Canadian priority - stable security at much lower levels of armaments.³

¹ New York Times, 2 June 1988, p. 17.

² New York Times, 2 June 1988, p. 18.

³ Office of the Prime Minister, Press Release, 10 December 1987, p. 2.