

keep open our Arctic waters for the development of that region so that we can effectively patrol all of our Canadian territory all of the time.

We have decided to strengthen our military presence in Europe as a further contribution to the alliance's collective defence and deterrence of military aggression. And as we build up NATO's conventional deterrent, we reduce our reliance on nuclear weapons, a goal I am sure we all share.

We also signed an agreement earlier this year with the United States to modernize the early warning radars in Canada, this as part of our commitment to honour our North American defence obligations.

We have decided to participate in the Sinai peacekeeping force to help maintain peace between Egypt and Israel, to create a climate in which the divisions of that part of the world may have some chance of healing.

Finally, as each of you is aware, in January of this year our government expressed the strong view that the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) research program was prudent, given similar research already being conducted by the USSR. We continue to be of that view. That being said, we decided in September that we would not participate on a government-to-government basis in the SDI research program. The government's research priorities were judged to lie more in the investigation of outer space verification technology than in feasibility studies of space-based weapon systems.

Underlying all these decisions is our unyielding commitment to a strong, independent Canada working in concert with other countries, in the interest of common global security. Within the field of arms control and disarmament, our government has six specific objectives:

- negotiated radical reductions in nuclear forces and the enhancement of strategic stability;
- maintenance and strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime;
- negotiation of a global chemical weapons ban;
- support for a comprehensive test ban treaty;
- prevention of an arms race in outer space; and
- the building of confidence sufficient to facilitate the reduction of military forces in Europe and elsewhere.

The resumption of the Geneva negotiations and the successful review of the non-proliferation treaty which concluded last month, have advanced the first two objectives. It is imperative that these negotiations lead to deep cuts in nuclear arsenals and that a firm cap be placed on any initial reduction to ensure that future movement will be in a steadily downward direction. In my view, this would be a nuclear "freeze" that works.

---