— to take an active and constructive part in working to ease international tensions and to advance the global arms control agenda in order to support the work going on in the bilateral talks.

Canada and Canadians have a history of international activism. We were among the founding members of the United Nations, a unique global institution, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. In establishing the U.N. in 1945, the international community expressed its determination to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" and recognised the transcendent need for cooperation between nations in the post-war world.

Canada has pursued this tradition of multilateralism in the field of arms control. In fact, Canada has a seat at every multilateral arms control and disarmament forum. This includes: the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, the United Nations Disarmament Commission, the Mutual Balanced Force Reduction Talks in Vienna, and the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. Each of these forums is filled with its own set of difficulties and complications. Their potential is far from being realized. Yet each also offers the long-range prospect for progress.

In his speech to St. Francis Xavier University (Antigonish, Nova Scotia) immediately after taking office, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney recognized the utility of the multilateral process when he stressed Canada's commitment to this process and to increasing Canada's "positive and constructive" influence in these forums. He added:

"It is in these forums that Canada can work most effectively to reduce tensions, to alleviate conflict, and to create the conditions for a lasting peace."

The multilateral forums are living proof that, in the nuclear age, global politics is no longer the exclusive purview of the super-powers. The nuclear arms race threatens every nation and individual on this planet — all nations have the right to speak out in defence of their future.

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