



SSEA Outlines Canadian Arms Control Priorities to United Nations General Assembly

On September 24, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, addressed the forty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly. Following is an excerpt from that address.

"In this International Year of Peace, we will be judged more than usual by our achievements in arms control and disarmament. All members of the international community will join Canada in applauding the new dialogue between the United States and the Soviet Union. President Reagan has told us of letters he has exchanged with General Secretary Gorbachev containing new arms control proposals. We welcome this direct open engagement of the two leaders in the negotiating process. The talks last weekend between US Secretary of State Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze have also contributed to an improved atmosphere in superpower relations. We can all hope this will lead to progress at the nuclear arms control and space negotiations which the two superpowers have reconvened in Geneva. We are encouraged by recent signs of flexibility in the positions of both sides in their efforts to achieve the agreed goal of radical reductions in nuclear weapons — reductions which will strengthen the strategic balance and improve international security.

The current focus of attention on nuclear arms reductions should not, however, detract from the necessity of similar progress in the field of conventional arms control. The results of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe have also added to the sense of momentum towards greater security and cooperation in East-West relations. Stockholm represents the signal accomplishment of bringing new openness and predictability to the conduct of military affairs in Europe. The establishment of agreed procedures for



Mr. Clark addressing the United Nations General Assembly on September 24.

air and ground on-site inspections is a landmark achievement which could serve as a productive precedent for other arms control negotiations. Canada, with our record of promoting constructive verification solutions, derives special satisfaction from having contributed to this outcome. It should facilitate the movement to the negotiation of more extensive measures of military restraint and reductions.

These signs of hope should spur the UN to tackle the broad range of important arms control questions before it. Progress on one issue can unlock progress on others.

Canada will strive for a ban on chemical weapons. We will continue to work to ensure that outer space is developed for peaceful purposes. We will be seeking to play an active role in strengthening the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Canada will again be supporting a comprehensive nuclear test ban. This is a fundamental goal and one towards which concrete steps can and should be

taken now. Canada welcomes President Reagan's undertaking that the USA is prepared first to move forward on ratification of the Threshold Test Ban Treaty and the Treaty on Peaceful Nuclear Explosions and then to take subsequent measures to further limit and ultimately end nuclear testing.

We urge all nations to cooperate and indeed participate in the development of the verification techniques needed to provide the confidence necessary to ratify these agreements, and which will enable us to plan the subsequent steps which we must take in all areas of arms control. For verification is not just a question of technical capacity but of the political will to reach agreement on the application of technologies and techniques.

In this spirit and in cooperation with others, Canada will continue to work vigorously towards real progress on verification...."