

The fear that removing these missiles might somehow split Europe from North America is unfounded. The links were strong before the missiles were introduced. They will remain strong after they are removed. The presence of American and Canadian forces in Europe is compelling evidence of the North American commitment to Europe.

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.

The INF Treaty tells us much about the meaning and importance of collective security. In 1979, the Western Alliance decided to deploy a limited number of these missiles. At the same time, we offered to negotiate reductions with the USSR.

Some West European governments came under strong public pressure not to provide bases for these missiles. Our West European allies held firm. When they saw that the Alliance could not be divided, the Soviets returned to the table they left in 1983. The Treaty just signed is a clear vindication of NATO's policy of combining deterrence and dialogue. We abandon either element at our peril.

Change and Continuity in East-West Relations

The Treaty is welcome for what it accomplishes. It is also welcome for what it tells us about East-West relations. Only a few years ago, such an agreement seemed far in the future -- hopelessly idealistic.