



Finally, I feel I must register the fact that the outcome of the Preparatory Committee process for the Special Session was a disappointment but not a disaster. As we approach the Special Session itself we must change our mindset to make this Conference a success which will provide impetus to multilateral arms control and disarmament. To press unrealistically for the setting of comprehensive and detailed negotiating priorities and targets in ways which are unacceptable to many would be a recipe for failure. No participant should be expected to subscribe to commitments inconsistent with its own policies and objectives. In addition, all participants must recognize the need for flexibility and constructive give-and-take as a contribution to the legitimate efforts of the international community to debate and discuss security and arms control issues of vital concern to it, and register those concerns in a collective way. We must avoid making of the Special Session a stage for acrimonious and futile exchanges. Instead it must be a cooperative endeavour to define realistic, forward-looking priorities for the multilateral arms control agenda.

...In this and other multilateral arms control forums, care must be taken to ensure that our efforts are supportive of and do not undermine the vitally important bilateral negotiating process between the USA and USSR. In this sense, we subscribe to the concept of 'constructive parallelism' as outlined by Foreign Minister Genscher at the opening of our session.

Mr. President, I wish to conclude on an optimistic note. Arms control and disarmament are a central element of the international political agenda and, as the old adage has it, politics is 'the art of the possible.' Rhetoric has its role but it is important that our words and aspirations retain a close relationship with reality. Otherwise we risk futility and ridicule. To be realistic does not preclude being an optimist and, as I stated at the beginning of this speech, more may now be truly possible than we not long ago dared hope. Let us get on with the job."

Cooperation Crucial to Northern Development

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, participated in the recent Norway-Canada Conference on Circumpolar Issues in Tromso, Norway. Here are excerpts from his speech.

"The Canadian Government recently conducted a thorough review of Canada's international relations, the first for 16 years. This time we were determined to open up the debate on foreign policy to all Canadians. From St. John's in the East to Victoria in the West to Yellowknife in the North, Canadians came forward with their views and concerns. They touched on every aspect of our foreign policy. They told us in no uncertain terms that Canadians remain as internationalist, as global in their world view, as ever. Maybe more so.

One of the areas stressed in that review was the North. In hearings before the Parliamentary Committee an Inuit leader, Mark Gordon, argued forcefully that one of the problems with the North is that too often northern policies are developed in isolation by southerners in capital cities in temperate zones. It is striking for me, and I expect for most of the Canadians in the room, that we are meeting here in Tromso — that Tromso is near the 70th parallel, well north of the Arctic Circle, indeed north of mainland Canada.

It is true that in Canada the majority of our population lives close to our border with the United States. But that fact does not diminish Canadians' sense of the North. Although the High Arctic may be more real to those who live there than to others, the North and the Arctic are a singular influence in the self-image of all Canadians. In the evocative words of a famous Canadian folk-song:

'Mon pays, ce n'est pas un pays, c'est l'hiver.'

It is fitting that Norwegians and Canadians are meeting here this week. As we were reminded so memorably last night, 500 years before Columbus was

even born, Norsemen were exploring and settling in Canada-to-be.

Other countries came to settle the Americas. Through accidents of history Canadians came to speak English and French and not Norwegian! But Nordic peoples continued to fish and explore in Canada's North. They came more frequently in the late 19th century as the search for a northwest passage intensified. A Norwegian, Amundsen, finally found it. Larsen, the first Canadian to navigate that passage, was Norwegian born. Many islands and waterways are named after Norwegian explorers such as Nansen and Sverdrup. In fact we are probably lucky that today Norway lays no claim to the northern half of Canada!

Norwegians joined in the massive flood of immigration to Canada between the 1880s and 1930. They have adapted to Canadian society with ease, while retaining elements of their distinctive culture and their language.

Norwegians contributed so much to Canadian society because our societies and our values are strikingly similar. I think our common northern environment is a key factor: we each developed the difficult parts of our respective continents.

Canadians and Norwegians have common attitudes towards the individual and towards the individual's relationships with family, nature, God and one's fellow man. That is not simply a coincidence. It is a product of our common geography. Harsh climate and the challenge of survival breed an attitude of sharing, of cooperation, of responsibility.

We are both democratic societies, but more importantly, we believe in the same type of democracy. We believe passionately in freedom and in justice. We believe that collectively society has a duty to ensure the rights of minorities, to protect the weak and to maintain high standards of health, welfare, education and safety. In northern climates government must provide services, strengthen the economy and protect the environment.