

A significant step was taken in this direction at the November 1985 Summit meeting between General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan. In their joint declaration, the leaders agreed that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought." As well, they identified several areas in which the USA and USSR had a common interest in progress. These included:

- accelerated work at the nuclear and space talks which began in March, 1985;
- the further enhancing of the Non-Proliferation Treaty;
- accelerated global efforts to conclude an effective and verifiable convention banning chemical weapons;
- agreement to work for positive results at the Vienna MBFR Talks and the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe.

Establishing and sustaining political dialogue at the highest level in order to build on the common ground between East and West is a step of fundamental importance.

This approach has been a consistent element of Canadian foreign policy. At the conclusion of his visits to many world capitals in 1983, Former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau suggested ten principles of a common bond between East and West:

- Both sides agree that a nuclear war cannot be won.
- Both sides agree that a nuclear war must never be fought.
- Both sides wish to be free of the risk of accidental war or of surprise attack.
- Both sides recognize the dangers inherent in destabilizing weapons.
- Both sides understand the need for improved techniques of crisis management.
- Both sides are conscious of the awesome consequences of being the first to use force against the other.
- Both sides have an interest in increasing security while reducing the cost.