

However, the problem of nuclear weapons and East-West tension is global in nature, and must be addressed as such, as was done in the INF Treaty of December 1987.

### Sovereignty

Based on historic title and the natural unity of the land, sea and ice of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, Canada's indivisible sovereignty over all the area, including the Northwest Passage, is clear. The USA contends that the Northwest Passage is an international strait and therefore subject to transit passage, which is to say ships of all nations may navigate at will. Canada does not accept this claim.

This issue was brought to a head in 1985, with the voyage of the US Coast Guard icebreaker Polar Sea through the Northwest Passage. Although the voyage was made with Canadian cooperation and participation, the USA did not ask in advance for Canadian permission to make it. Triggered by this event, the Canadian government announced in September 1985 certain measures to enhance sovereignty in the Arctic, including "straight baselines" around the outer perimeter of the islands of the Arctic Archipelago confirming the internal status of the waters.

The issue was discussed by Prime Minister Mulroney and President Reagan at the Washington Summit in March 1986, and again at the Ottawa Summit in April 1987. In his address to a joint session of Parliament, President Reagan pledged support for an agreement based on mutual respect for sovereignty. On January 11, 1988, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Joe Clark, and the Secretary of State, George Shultz, signed the **Agreement on Arctic Cooperation** dealing with navigation of icebreakers in the two countries' respective Arctic waters.

The Agreement provides that, in future, each and every transit of a US government-owned or government-operated icebreaker through the waters of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, including the Northwest Passage, would be subject to the prior consent of Canada. It thus gives Canada effective control over all US icebreaker activities in Canada's Arctic waters.

The Agreement is fully consistent with the exercise of Canadian sovereignty. It represents a practical and cooperative approach to the question, an approach that does not dilute Canada's legal position. Control is an essential ingredient of sovereignty; the Agreement meets this goal. Canada did not have such control in 1985 at the time of the Polar Sea transit.

The Agreement did not resolve the legal dispute between Canada and the USA over the status of Canada's Arctic waters. On