

Iceland showed that the complete elimination of ballistic missiles in 10 years is now seriously discussed at the highest levels. The full implementation of this historic opportunity is our task. Iceland was a moment on the journey, but the journey goes on.

When President Reagan addressed the General Assembly before the Reykjavik meeting, he spoke of hope, of a future without weapons of mass destruction. He reaffirmed his country's commitment to peace, to a more stable superpower relationship, and to substantial progress on arms control and disarmament. The President expressed his Government's willingness to ratify the Threshold Test Ban Treaty and the Treaty on Peaceful Nuclear Explosions once agreement is reached on improved verification procedures. He offered to consider other limits on nuclear testing in parallel with arms reductions. It is our hope that the Soviet Union might find it possible to build on this realistic and welcome approach as a firm foundation for real progress.

When Foreign Minister Shevardnadze came to New York earlier in this Session, he too, gave us reason for optimism. He spoke of relations with the United States as holding promise -- of encouraging outlines of meaningful agreements between his country and The United States of America. When we later welcomed him in Ottawa, Mr. Shevardnadze once again repeated his country's commitment to more stable East-West ties, and to progress on arms control.

But in this atmosphere of expectation, two notes of caution are in order: first, any sense of new momentum can only lead to lasting, effective results if it is backed up by patience, quiet negotiation, and due attention to adequate verification, which over the long term will assure confidence in compliance.

And second, our hopes and expectations surrounding the superpower talks and the bilateral nuclear and space negotiations in Geneva as important as they are, should not be allowed to distract attention from the necessity for complementary progress in conventional and multilateral arms control forums.

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In this context, we are all much encouraged by the successful conclusion of the Stockholm Conference on Security

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