

In the nearly four decades since the Second World War, the international community has come to count on Canada as a moderating influence in a world beset by extremes. Our new Government is in the mainstream of this tradition, and intends to build on it, consistently and pragmatically.

We want to ensure that we are using our influence, and defining our interests, in ways which reflect the contemporary challenges facing Canada and the world. As a new government should, we shall undertake a thorough and public review of Canadian foreign policy, aimed at the creative renewal of a moderate and constructive Canadian role in the world. Citizens of Canada, and friends of Canada, will be encouraged to suggest how the Canadian international tradition can best be applied to the increasing tensions and interdependence of the modern world, including those of the nuclear age.

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Mr. President, the frightening facts of the nuclear arms race are well known. The superpowers are developing new kinds of nuclear weapons; more countries are developing nuclear capacities; and the risk rises that terrorist groups could acquire nuclear devices. Physicians and scientists warn that, even for survivors, the world would be virtually uninhabitable after a major nuclear conflict.

But far more threatening than the weaponry are the patterns into which the world has settled. Nuclear arms control negotiations between the superpowers are at a standstill. This stalemate allows other nuclear states to claim impotence in the arms race, and could encourage states without nuclear weapons to argue that they have a right to acquire them.

If these patterns continue, and the path toward effective nuclear arms control remains blocked, the world will become infinitely more dangerous.

We therefore, welcome the meeting that will take place in Washington later this week between President Reagan and Foreign Minister Gromyko. We applaud the U.S. willingness, expressed so eloquently yesterday by President Reagan, to engage in political consultations on a regular and frequent basis. We hope that the USSR will respond positively to this opportunity to meet and talk.