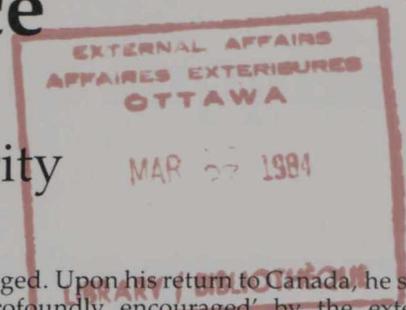


Strategies for Peace

Prime Minister Trudeau's initiative on peace and security



Prime Minister Trudeau has embarked on an initiative to enlist world leaders in a concerted effort to lessen world tensions and to bring a firmer political will to arms control negotiations and the building of East/West confidence.

His initiative for easing world tensions was first outlined in a major speech on 27 October 1983, before the Conference on Strategies for Peace and Security in the Nuclear Age, at the University of Guelph, Ontario.

In his address Mr Trudeau said that he was deeply troubled by 'a widening gap between military strategy and political purpose' and 'a super-power relationship which was dangerously confrontational'.

He suggested that in addition to NATO's 'two-track' (deployment and negotiation) approach to intermediate range nuclear forces in Europe, which the Canadian government supports, a 'third rail' of 'confidence and communication' is needed in East-West relations - 'a rail charging our dealings with the other side with a current of political energy'.

Mr Trudeau also said that the risk of miscalculation in the East-West nuclear confrontation is too great not to try to rebuild confidence through active political contacts and consultations. He continued that 'only in this way can the quality of credibility of effort toward peace and security, from whatever quarter, be animated and reinforced'.

Following his Guelph speech, Prime Minister Trudeau discussed his proposals to restore East-West dialogue with the leaders of Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands, and with Pope John Paul II. Everywhere that Mr Trudeau sought support he was welcomed and

encouraged. Upon his return to Canada, he said he was 'profoundly encouraged' by the extent to which his proposals were received.

On November 13, in a speech to supporters in Montreal, Mr Trudeau expanded on his initiative and outlined specific elements of a programme for political management of the current crisis in East/West relations. He called for the establishment of a forum in which global limits might be negotiated for all five nuclear weapons states. He said this forum should recognize the USA and USSR as strategic equals, and at the same time should not subject the nuclear forces of Britain, France and China to restraints which do not recognize their own national interests. Other elements of this programme would involve giving the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures in Europe (CDSBE) the necessary political support to achieve progress in creating military confidence building measures; injecting in the Vienna MBFR talks fresh political impetus in an effort to achieve mutually-agreed conventional force reductions; seeking a ban on testing anti-satellite systems; and renewed efforts to limit both vertical and horizontal nuclear proliferation.

In late November, Prime Minister Trudeau went to Japan where he met with Prime Minister Nakasone and then to New Delhi to meet with Prime Minister Gandhi and attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. His initiative met with general support from both leaders, as well as from the Commonwealth heads of government. In the 'Goa Declaration on International Security', issued at the conclusion of the Commonwealth meeting, leaders gave their support 'in all appropriate ways' to the Canadian initiative and to Prime Minister Trudeau's 'efforts to restore active political contact and communications among all the nuclear weapon powers'.

From India, Mr Trudeau travelled to Peking to discuss his initiative with Chinese leaders, who again, while laying much of the responsibility for East/West relations with the superpowers, were strong in their support of his purpose.

The Prime Minister followed up these discussions with a mid-December visit to Washington where he discussed his perceptions of what was needed in East/West relations with President Reagan. Here again, he was heartened by the President's determination to assure peace and his desire to build confidence through maintaining a broad East/West dialogue.

Mr Trudeau has also discussed his ideas with the UN Secretary General, Sr Perez de Cuellar. He is expected as well to visit Moscow where he will follow up on informal talks already held there by his personal envoy, former Ambassador to Moscow, Geoffrey Pearson.

In each of his visits, the Prime Minister has been warmly welcomed and supported in his pursuit of improved East/West relations through more pervasive political contact and dialogue. Though some leaders may have reservations on specific elements of the Prime Minister's proposals, all seem to agree that the current state of East/West relations is deeply worrying and requires greater political

Front cover

Clockwise from lower left: External Affairs Minister Allan J MacEachen with NATO foreign ministers; Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in New Delhi; Commonwealth leaders; the Prime Minister at the UN; in Oman; with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher during her visit to Ottawa in September 1983; with Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone of Japan; and being greeted in Bangladesh by President Ershad.