

in June we agreed that, if the negotiations are to succeed, it will be important for all the Allies to stand together behind their decision. As our contribution to this solidarity, Canada has agreed to help test vital components of the technology of the cruise missile.

At the Williamsburg Summit Conference our leaders pledged themselves to "devote our full political resources to reducing the threat of war." Now that we have agreed to participate in the development of a major weapons system, we believe that Canada has an even greater obligation to join in the search for a secure peace. For this reason, the Canadian Government has resolved to be even more vigorous than in the past in promoting creative disarmament and arms control initiatives. More particularly, it is the Canadian Government's firm intention to redouble its efforts in the coming months to contribute to the progress and eventual success of current negotiations. I am pleased that we appear to be on the verge of approving a new set of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament in Europe, to be held in Stockholm.

As you may be aware, George, one of our major long-standing preoccupations in Canada has been to achieve a greater degree of mutual confidence and trust between East and West. It has been and continues to be our firm belief that the problem of verification is at the core of the disarmament and arms control issues. The Canadian Government therefore proposes to press vigorously the issue of verification in forthcoming disarmament and arms control negotiations.

In your reply to my letter of January 21, you expressed agreement with my view of the importance of intensified consultations between our two Governments on these vital issues in the months ahead. I look forward to an enhanced dialogue between us, in which I shall be pursuing with you the themes mentioned above.

Yours sincerely,

Allan J. MacEachen