



communiqué

No.:
No.:

03

JANUARY 10, 1985

USA-SOVIET ARMS CONTROL TALKS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, warmly welcomes the outcome of the two days of talks between the United States Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz, and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Andrei Gromyko, in Geneva January 7 and 8. Mr. Clark said that the agreement to engage in bilateral negotiations on nuclear arms - of both strategic and intermediate range - and space weapons, represents an important step forward in relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. The negotiating process will have far-reaching and positive implications for East-West relations in general and for negotiations in multilateral arms control fora in which Canada is a direct participant.

Mr. Clark stated: "Canada will continue to play an active and constructive role in the search for the common understanding between East and West needed for the achievement of durable, effective and verifiable arms control agreements."

Canada is particularly encouraged by the agreed objectives for the USA-USSR negotiations: the prevention of an arms race in space and its termination on earth; the limitation and reduction of nuclear arms; and the strengthening of strategic stability, leading ultimately to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. These themes have long been central elements of Canadian foreign policy. Canada welcomes the opportunity to consult further with the USA, both bilaterally and in NATO, as these negotiations unfold.

Mr. Clark cautioned that there should be no illusion that the course charted at Geneva will be an easy one. It will be long and arduous.