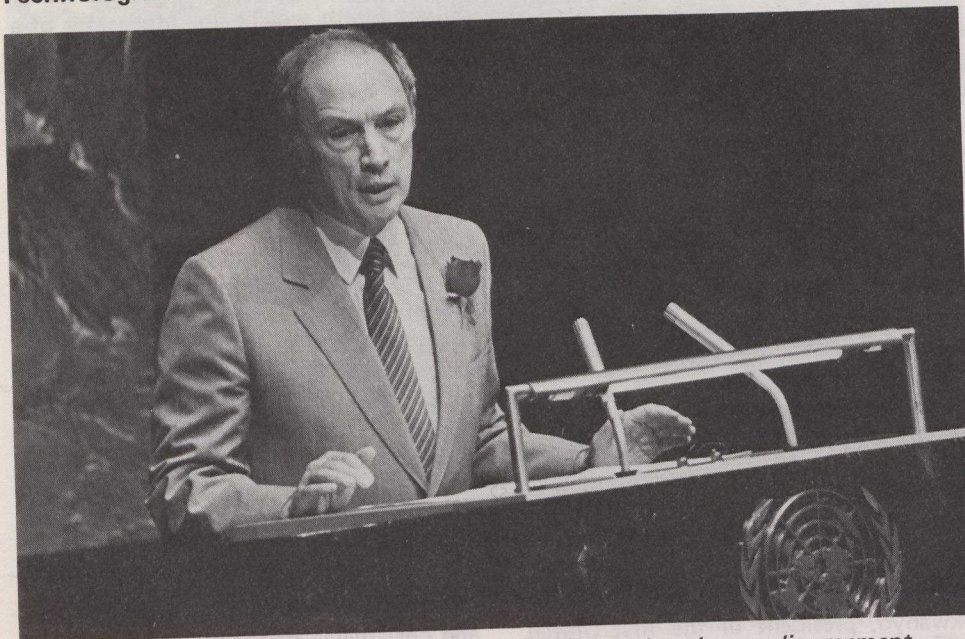


Technological momentum fuels the nuclear arms race



Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau addresses the second special session on disarmament.

One of the most important problems facing the United Nations is how to break the arms spiral, said Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in a speech to the second United Nations Special Session on Disarmament (UNSSOD II) in New York City on June 18.

The Canadian delegation to the meeting included Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Gérard Pelletier, Ambassador for Disarmament Arthur Menzies, Chairman of the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence Marcel Prud'homme and a number of parliamentary observers and consultants.

Mr. Trudeau told those attending the session: "We arm out of fear for our security and we will disarm only if we are convinced that the threat to our security has abated. Arms control, to be viable, must increase security, not reduce it."

The Prime Minister said that "the shadow that overhangs all arms-control negotiations and has led to the unravelling of some, comes mainly from the fact that we are dealing with an array of very different weapons systems in circumstances where technological innovation tends to overtake a negotiation even while it is in progress".

Arms control negotiations must take account of the legitimate interests of both sides, Prime Minister Trudeau told the session. "An attempt by one side to make strategic gains at the expense of

the other will not, in the end, work. Only measures that increase mutual security are likely to offer a way out of the present paralysis. In particular, the two super-powers must start with the recognition that each has strategic interests and the strength to protect those interests," said Mr. Trudeau.

Nuclear arms talks

With reference to the negotiations on intermediate range nuclear forces (INF) which began late last year, the Prime Minister said that North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries "passionately

want these negotiations to succeed in removing the current threat and thereby obviating the need to deploy new missiles of our own".

Mr. Trudeau expressed the hope that the Warsaw Pact countries would negotiate in good faith and advised those countries that the West's position on nuclear arms matters would remain strong regardless of public demonstrations in Western Europe and North America against the arms race.

"It would be a grave miscalculation were the Soviets to misinterpret the very strength of our democratic system as a demonstration of the weakness of our resolve," said the Prime Minister.

The Canadian Prime Minister added that he was concerned with the "technological momentum" that underlines the arms race. "Instability is the fuel that feeds the nuclear arms race. That is why, four years ago, I put before this assembly a 'strategy of suffocation' designed to deprive the nuclear arms race of the oxygen on which it feeds, from the laboratories to the testing sites," said Mr. Trudeau.

"The main elements of the strategy had long been familiar features of the arms control dialogue: a comprehensive test ban; a halt to the flight-testing of all new strategic delivery vehicles; a cessation of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes; and a limitation, and eventual reduction, of military spending for new strategic weapons systems. It was in the combination of these elements that I saw a more coherent, a more efficient and a more promising instrument



Mr. Trudeau (right) meets with UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.