

Remarks by Parliamentary Secretary of External Affairs to
the Great Peace Journey.

Introduction

It is with great pleasure that I welcome the representatives of the Great Peace Journey to Ottawa. I have heard with interest of the Journey's travels to other capitals in search of common ground among nations upon which to build a peaceful and secure future. I have also learned of the considerable efforts of the Canadian organizers in developing a useful programme for our guests. It is indeed this sort of grassroots support which has made the global movement for peace such a powerful force in the international arena.

The Canadian Government has examined carefully the questions you have posed. In order to convey an accurate portrayal of Canadian policy on these important subjects, we have found it necessary to expand our responses beyond the simple "yes" or "no" answers which you requested. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, shares the view that in order to achieve real understanding on such crucial and extremely complex issues, "yes" or "no" answers are not appropriate in that they may create a false impression of our position.

At the same time, I want to underline that my statements and responses to your questions do not constitute a complete or comprehensive statement of Canadian policy on arms control and disarmament. Your questions do, however, provide a basis for discussion of at least some aspects of Canadian policy.

I should point out that arms control and disarmament is one of the elements that make up our security policy. The others are defence and deterrence, and peacekeeping and the peaceful resolution of disputes. You might also find it useful to know that in October 1985 the Prime Minister listed six priority Canadian objectives in the area of arms control and disarmament. These are: