

matters are of fundamental importance to all Canadians. Your visit, Mr. Minister, has been timely in every respect, not least in the opportunity it has provided to work on these issues.

Mr. Minister, your visit has also given us the opportunity to discuss critical global problems. As foreign minister of one of the world's superpowers, you bear the weight of enormous responsibilities. The potential for nuclear holocaust puts the fate of all the world's peoples in your hands. And none more than that of Canadians who live between the two superpowers.

Let us be frank, Mr. Minister. Though geography makes us neighbours, history has set us apart. Canada is a founding member of North Atlantic alliance, and defends the North American continent in partnership with the United States. We are not neutral, and do not wish to be.

At the same time we have ceaselessly worked for less confrontational and more cooperative relations between East and West. Alongside the need to maintain security lies the "second track", the invitation to dialogue and cooperation, which Canada has always kept open.

Your visit, Mr. Minister, comes at an auspicious moment in East/West relations. We are closely following the innovations that General Secretary Gorbachev and his colleagues are introducing in the Soviet Union. We recognize in you, sir, a man who is already making his mark on the world stage and who is seeking to break out of the sterile, and ultimately deadly, pattern into which East/West relations have fallen in recent years.

We urge you to stay on that new course, because it offers the only real hope of improved relations. Canadians know something of the hearts and minds of our American neighbours. Their lives too are imperiled by nuclear war and impoverished by the spiralling arms race. Americans too want to find a way out.

Your speech to the United Nations last week was of great interest to us. You spoke of your country's wish to improve East/West dialogue and your belief in the real possibility of significant agreements in the area of arms control and disarmament. We hear you and we want to work with you.