



External Affairs Department sat down to think about how a verification system might work and whether Canadian companies might get contracts to supply some of the monitoring technology. It certainly wasn't a headline-grabbing conference, but it did show that the Canadian government is serious about making a contribution in this all-important field.

As one participant noted, the problems with any verification system are cost, technical challenges and political will. The cost of a verification system of conventional forces from the Atlantic to the Urals would run above \$1-billion. You would need a mixture of satellites, satellite-receiving stations, planes, sensors, checkpoints, on-site inspectors and computers. Mind you, the price tag looks puny compared with the cost of any large weapons system.

The thorniest difficulty is deciding where verification stops and espionage begins. Monitoring compliance would almost certainly require sensors placed near airports to track take-offs, inspectors at key locations, periodic airplane sorties and perhaps a limited number of inspections on demand. Some of these problems bedevilled the unsuccessful negotiations to reduce conventional forces in Europe, talks which may soon be rekindled in another form.

It would take between five and 10 years for both sides to set up their verification systems after negotiating a treaty, a process that itself could take years. So thinking about verification problems and challenges is really to dream about the twenty-first century, unless an early and unexpected breakthrough emerges.

Still, it's an eminently worthwhile area for Canada to concentrate its efforts, by sponsoring resolutions at the United Nations, financing research by academic specialists, organizing conferences with Canadian industry and trying in the process to carve out a niche for this country. It's unspectacular but necessary work, a foreign policy initiative that represents an excellent investment."

Beyond the Summit: The Future of Disarmament

The following are excerpts from the address given by Mr. Douglas Roche, Ambassador for Disarmament, on the cross-Canada speaking tour, December 1-16, 1987.

"...Clearly, the agreement to eliminate all medium- and shorter-range nuclear missiles (INF) is a breakthrough in rebuilding East-West relations. For the first time an entire class of weapons will be destroyed. Although the agreement will eliminate only 3 per cent of the world's nuclear arsenal, its political significance is enormous. The bilateral negotiating process has, in fact, achieved a concrete result.

And there is more on the horizon. The two superpower leaders are preparing another summit for 1988 in Moscow at which they hope to sign a treaty eliminating 50 per cent of the present huge stockpiles of strategic nuclear weapons. An historical process of disarmament is actually underway. These achievements represent a success for those countries, like Canada, that have been pressing both superpowers hard for radical reductions in nuclear weapons.

Of course, any outburst of euphoria is premature. Global problems involving regional wars, massive poverty, environmental destruction and the population explosion are immense. But it would be equally wrong to underestimate the magnitude of this moment that the world is passing through. The air is filled with change.

"...Mr. Gorbachev continues to demonstrate a desire for reforms in a more open Soviet Union. His economic reforms and foreign policy initiatives go well beyond style. Whether he can deliver a 'new' Soviet Union, given unresolved questions of the Soviet satellite states, Afghanistan and human rights, is a valid question. Nonetheless, the changes that have taken place are for the most part of the type that the West has demanded for many years. It is important not only to acknowledge these changes but also to respond in ways that could induce further change.

...As a practical expression of this improved spirit, we have seen, throughout 1987, these developments:

— Substantial progress at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva in the negotiations for a Chemical Weapons Treaty that would ban the production of all chemical weapons.

— Preparations at the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in Vienna for a new forum to negotiate conventional force reductions in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, involving all members of NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

— The successful application of the Stockholm confidence-building agreement in which NATO and Warsaw Pact observers conducted 16 unprecedented on-site inspections of each other's military exercises.

...All these advances confirm the overarching fact of our time: peace is a multi-agenda process involving economic and social development as well as arms control measures, the protection of human rights as well as an end to racial discrimination. The agenda for the 21st century is already delineated. The issues that claim humanity's full attention are evident: the threat of nuclear annihilation, regional wars using conventional weapons, the gap between the developing and the industrial worlds, the danger of over-population, the despoilation of the global environment.

...A key to moving the world to a high stage of civilization is to understand the full meaning of security in the modern age.

Nations arm because they feel their security to be threatened, and each nation will judge its own security on its own terms. Only when the threat to security is lessened is real disarmament possible. But the paradox of our time is that the inflated arms race itself becomes a threat to security. Moreover, we now see that the huge suffering caused by under-development is itself a growing non-military threat to security. Working constructively on all aspects of