

Together, these Arctic and environment agreements transform Arctic diplomacy which has often been as remote and chilly as the region itself. We strongly support the proposal to create an International Arctic Science Committee. We also back the call by the Finnish government for multilateral Arctic environmental cooperation.

I am pleased to announce that the next meeting to develop an action plan for this initiative will take place in Canada's North, in Yellowknife, in the Spring of 1990.

We also strongly support the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the first multilateral Arctic organization. We were delighted that the Soviet Union was represented at the last meeting and urge that you be represented again at the next meeting. We agree entirely with President Gorbachev on the call he made at the United Nations for definitions of national security to be broadened to include the environmental threat to all nations. We, also, agree with his suggestion that the 1992 UN conference on the environment be held at the head of government/head of state level.

The environmental summit at the Hague last March, concluded that protection of the environment against global threats will require innovative international cooperation and entirely new concepts. I commend the Hague Declaration to the U.S.S.R. This declaration was signed by 24 countries at the Hague and has, subsequently, been endorsed by 45 more.

The most difficult challenge world-wide, is neither ozone depletion nor the "greenhouse effect". The most difficult challenge is to change mankind's behaviour. Attitudes must change, world-wide, towards the common property of all mankind -- our natural environment -- if the security, health and livelihood of our own children and grandchildren are to be protected. The challenge for mankind is to change its behaviour in anticipation of the crisis, not in response to it. Because if we wait for doomsday, the costs will be appalling. And they will be borne by our children and their children.

For no area of the world are new attitudes more important than for the Arctic, the unintended victim of economic activity elsewhere. And for no two countries are new attitudes more crucial than for Canada and the USSR, with our joint stewardship of so much of the Arctic and of one-fifth of the earth surface of the entire planet. We have much we can do together bilaterally and multilaterally in the Arctic.