



L. Bianco

Secretary of State for External Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister Allan J. MacEachen at disarmament meeting.

August.

In his speech to the committee, Mr. MacEachen underlined Canada's growing concern about the arms race and emphasized the vital role of arms control and disarmament negotiations for international peace and security.

"Canada has a large stake in the INF (intermediate-range nuclear forces) negotiations. We intend to press vigorously the following basic approach:

— Canada places its full weight behind the negotiations. We strongly support a negotiated solution that will make deployment of the missiles in Europe unnecessary.

— Likewise, in the absence of concrete results in the negotiations, Canada considers that there is no viable alternative to deployment of the missiles.

— Every serious proposal must be seriously examined. By the same token, propaganda ploys must not be permitted to undermine serious negotiations.

— Statements aimed at public opinion cannot be a substitute for genuine willingness to reach an agreement.

— Increased mutual security must be accepted as the fundamental consideration in the negotiating process.

"Despite the obstacles, the Canadian government is convinced that these negotiations can demonstrate in 1983 that the arms control and disarmament process can be made to work.

"1983 is also a year of opportunity for

the Committee on Disarmament. Public concern about the issues is high. The need for early action is clear, and mutual security is also the foundation for our work here....

"How can we ensure that the real work of negotiation is pressed with vigour? The negotiating table is full of proposals, but they must be translated into agreements. The recent Prague Declaration referred to the work of this committee in an extended way. As I said in Ottawa last week, any aspects of these proposals which would lead to progress towards concrete and verifiable arms control and disarmament agreements will receive our support, but I want to single out particular issues on which Canada believes progress should be made in 1983.

"The pursuit of a comprehensive nuclear test ban is a fundamental nuclear issue before this committee. We were pleased by the establishment last year of a working group in the committee on a nuclear test ban, but we were disappointed that, having waited so long for consensus, the committee did not move quickly to begin substantive work. I urge that this new working group begin to discharge its mandate as a matter of urgency in 1983.

"Another promising avenue is the *ad hoc* group of seismic experts. Since its inception in 1976, it has been developing an international seismic data exchange system which will be an international verification mechanism forming part of the provisions of an eventual comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. At the second UN Special Session on Disarmament last year, Prime Minister Trudeau called for it to become fully operational at an early date and in advance of a treaty. Canada has committed resources to enable us to become a full participant in the exchange. We are convinced that the early entry into operation of the data exchange would be an effective way to make progress towards the objective of a comprehensive test ban.

"This step-by-step approach can ensure that key elements of a treaty are in place even before the final political commitment to a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. This process can develop a momentum toward the conclusion of a treaty and can be complementary to the necessary negotiations among nuclear weapon states.

"I take this opportunity of drawing to the attention of this committee an equally high Canadian priority for 1983, the prevention of the further spread of

nuclear weapons through the evolution of an effective non-proliferation regime based on the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The NPT emphasizes the non-discriminatory transfer of peaceful nuclear technology. It also provides for the de-escalation of the arms race on the part of nuclear weapon states and for the rapid and effective movement towards disarmament. More states have adhered to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. However, such voluntary renunciation has not been matched by corresponding action by the nuclear weapon states to halt the build-up of nuclear weapons. Only tangible moves by the superpowers will demonstrate the sincerity of their commitment to non-proliferation. Those of us with nuclear technology and those without must seek to persuade the nuclear weapon states to live up to their bargain to which they are committed by the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"Canada is prepared to seek international consensus on the development of principles which would result in a more universal and effective approach to non-proliferation. Such principles should include a formal renunciation of nuclear explosive devices and an agreement to permit the safeguarding of all nuclear activities throughout the entire range of the nuclear fuel cycle. This is fundamental to the creation of a stable and permanent non-proliferation regime. Under such conditions, bilateral nuclear commitments could then be subsumed into a truly equitable and responsible international order. I suggest that the time has come for genuine movement towards the realization of these objectives.

"Arms control and disarmament also must extend to non-nuclear weapon systems, some of which are as potentially horrifying as nuclear weapons.

"The time is right for progress this year towards a treaty on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and the destruction of existing stocks. We intend to participate vigorously along with others in seeking to realize the maximum from the present opportunity.

"Continuing Canadian research on defensive measures enables us to put forward suggestions on such aspects as the verification provisions of a treaty banning chemical weapons. Canada has contributed working papers. We have allocated funds to enable Canadian technical experts to participate here in Geneva for longer periods beginning with

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