

This national non-nuclear role imposes obligations, such as the test and evaluation programs agreed with our allies. It also provides a unique opportunity for international influence on arms control and disarmament questions. Canada thus maintains a clear and credible voice in the United Nations and in other councils dedicated to the search for peace and security.

Ministers believe that Canadians can be proud of our record of contribution to the critical break-throughs in nuclear arms control, such as the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968. Ministers also believe that they express the hopes and expectations of many Canadians by declaring that this country's dedication to arms control remains among our highest priorities.

Canada's support for a comprehensive multilateral nuclear test ban treaty continues to be vigorous and unrelenting. Our work for a more effective non-proliferation regime, enhanced by Canada's expertise in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, will not slacken. We continue to press for reductions and limitations of conventional forces, and for a ban on the development, testing and deployment of all weapons for use in outer space. We are in the forefront of efforts to abolish chemical weapons.

Beyond these initiatives and proposals lie the broader questions of mutual confidence and trust which are essential to any meaningful arms reduction. Verification is at the core of confidence building. Canada will continue to place particular importance on the development of verification mechanisms fundamental to trust in arms control agreements. The Government reaffirms its conviction that constructive dialogue is essential to building a climate of confidence among the nuclear powers and other nations.

Canada will therefore continue to play its full part in the Alliance consultations on the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force negotiations, and in consultations with the USA on the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks. Progress in these talks, at the current juncture, requires a blend of strength and flexibility, a readiness to defend and a readiness to negotiate. This posture, to be effective, must be common to all those engaged in the crucial issues of security and survival. It is embodied in Canadian policy.