

agreements can make to international peace, prosperity and social advancement. Resolution 242, the Law of the Sea, and the declaration and covenants on human rights, are but three that come immediately to mind.

Mr President,

In this International Year of Peace, we will be judged more than usual by our achievements in arms control and disarmament. All members of the international community will join Canada in applauding the new dialogue between the United States and the Soviet Union. President Reagan has told us of letters he has exchanged with General Secretary Gorbachev containing new arms control proposals. We welcome this direct open engagement of the two leaders in the negotiating process. The talks last weekend between US Secretary of State Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze have also contributed to an improved atmosphere in superpower relations. We can all hope this will lead to progress at the nuclear arms control and space negotiations which the two superpowers have reconvened in Geneva. We are encouraged by recent signs of flexibility in the positions of both sides in their efforts to achieve the agreed goal of radical reductions in nuclear weapons - reductions which will strengthen the strategic balance and improve international security.

The current focus of attention on nuclear arms reductions should not however detract from the necessity of similar progress in the field of conventional arms control. The results of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe have also added to the sense of momentum towards greater security and cooperation in East-West relations. Stockholm represents the signal accomplishment of bringing new openness and predictability to the conduct of military affairs in Europe. The establishment of agreed procedures for air and ground on-site inspections is a landmark achievement which could serve as a productive precedent for other arms control negotiations. Canada, with our record of promoting constructive verification solutions, derives special satisfaction from having contributed to this outcome. It should facilitate the movement to the negotiation of more extensive measures of military restraint and reductions.