

For the first time since the Second World War we are talking about real disarmament - substantial reductions (50% within five years in the main components of the superpowers' strategic nuclear arsenals) and an agreement to negotiate the elimination of an entire class of nuclear weapons - those of intermediate-range (INF) in Europe.

We may well be approaching what is a point of historical significance in the arms control and disarmament process, a process that has seen few victories over the last decade but that now holds out real prospects for concrete achievements.

However, simply to reduce nuclear arsenals for the sake of reductions alone is not necessarily stabilizing, particularly if that allows us to return to warfare by other means. After all, none of us wants to repeat the European experience of this century, which has witnessed two devastating World Wars that combined led to the death of millions of human beings.

But the Canadian Government believes that an important first step at this juncture would be an early INF agreement and a resumption of the USA-USSR Summit process.

That, we believe, would be a significant step toward a more secure and stable international environment and one that the Canadian Government would welcome.

Your deliberations this weekend, while confined to the narrower outer space issue, are nonetheless a critical part of the larger international security equation.

It is our hope that your attendance here has been an invigorating experience and that you and your Governments will come away with a better appreciation of Canada's efforts to work towards the prevention of an arms race in outer space.