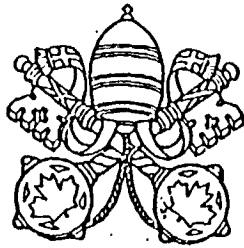


# THE CATHOLIC REGISTER



50 CENTS

DECEMBER 12-18, 1987

## Missile deal 'unprecedented'

BY JOANNE SISTO  
The Catholic Register

As Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan sat across the table from one another moments from signing a treaty that will completely eliminate medium-range nuclear weapons from the world's arsenal, Douglas Roche, Canada's federally-appointed Ambassador for Disarmament could find only one word to describe the historic day — "unprecedented."

The Dec. 8 signing will begin a process which, for first time in history, will destroy an entire class of nuclear weapons. It is the first time the process to verify that destruction will be so thorough — 40 Soviet technicians will live in the southwest-ern United States to perform on-site inspections of nuclear production plants. Once signed, the treaty could lead to a 1988



Doug Roche.

agreement where 50 per cent of long-range missiles (12,000 warheads) would be eliminated.

Mr. Roche says if long-range missiles go, "it will be the most significant turning point in East-West relations since the Second World War."

When questioned, Mr. Roche avoids predicting the future of Star Wars, Reagan's space-based defence program which the Kremlin has described as a major impediment to any se-

rious arms agreement.

Instead, he describes the summit as "enormously important" for it "focuses world attention on what global peace is really about. Security isn't just eliminating nuclear arms," he says. "Lasting peace means addressing poverty, environmental damage, racial discrimination, and human rights violations.

"Ethics is at the root of peace, and the Church is perfectly placed to address the issue," he added.

A former Member of Parliament and founder of Edmonton's *Western Catholic Reporter* newspaper, Mr. Roche urged Catholics to tune into "the insightful Vatican II doctrines available on the global crisis.

"The tremendous teachings of the Church must be applied  
See Peace page 2

## Peace ambassador praises Church

Continued from page 1

by Catholics themselves," he told *The Register*. "It is only then that politicians will tune into ethical issues."

Mr. Roche commended the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) in Ottawa for their astute response to a defence white paper which has yet to be released to the public, and described the 1983 ecumenical brief on the arms race submitted

to then Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau as an "important document."

But said that bishops, lay Catholics and priests must "make the voice of religion heard" in society by being "outward oriented instead of inward."

"How we treat one another in a global community on a planet where we are all equally vulnerable, is very much a theological concern," he added.