

The event is the signing of a treaty to ban INF range nuclear missiles. Some people see it as a move in the direction of nuclear disarmament. Who would quarrel with that proposition?

The only problem is that the U.S., a democracy, is signing a treaty with the biggest colonial power of the twentieth century. The record of the Soviet Union in respecting treaties is dismal....Yalta is an agreement to hold free elections in Poland and other satellite countries. We are still waiting forty years later for these free elections....

Let us put the signing of the treaty in its proper perspective.⁴

Liberal Member Marcel Prud'homme saw the agreement in a more optimistic light, referring to the trend toward openness or glasnost in Soviet society:

... I rejoice at the fact that the two most powerful men on this earth can come to an agreement.

I publicly applaud the open-mindedness which now exists in the USSR thanks to the new Soviet leader Mr. Gorbachev. I hope that this openness to new ideas will meet a corresponding attitude in the Western world.

I hope that this would only be the first step toward the real summit of total disarmament, the real summit toward better comprehension and a better world.⁵

Mr. Bill Blaikie of the New Democratic Party (NDP) spoke of the agreement as raising a new hope for the future. He cautioned, however, that the INF Treaty must be used as a first step in a continuing process:

The agreement to be signed is a first, in that it eliminates

⁴ Commons Debates, 8 December 1987, p. 11583.

⁵ Ibid., pp. 11583-4.