

Mr. Chairman, on my travels across Canada this year, I have found a high interest in, and concern for, disarmament. I also found an unprecedented response to the Declaration of the International Year of Peace. Canada's International Year of Peace programme has been substantive. Two weeks ago, as all around the world, we marked the International Day of Peace; bells rang in communities from coast to coast in Canada in an eloquent peal for peace. And under the bells of the Peace Tower in Ottawa, people gathered to mark the International Day of Peace. A commemorative postage stamp and a fine gold coin were issued as part of the Government's International Year of Peace programme to commemorate what should be a milestone in man's search for peace and security. Two days later under the same Peace Tower, I accepted the peace torch from the athletes participating in the First Earth Run, which is sponsored by UNICEF. And in an act of moving symbolism, I handed it on, much in the way that what we have done this year will be handed on into the future. The IYP thus will be an inspiration to people and Governments everywhere to make their own contribution to peace.

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I have spoken in these remarks of new hope and commitment. I have talked of a new sense of expectation surrounding the superpower relationship, an expectation only heightened by the meeting at Reykjavik. If as we earnestly desire, this leads to substantive agreement on crucial nuclear questions, we must see the success as an impulse to greater effort and concrete results in multilateral arms control issues. And even if agreement on nuclear weapons reductions continues to elude the superpowers -- all the more will it be important to press on. Wherever and whenever we can, in the UN First Committee, the Conference on Disarmament, the United Nations Disarmament Commission -- we must redouble our effort toward agreement on those important arms control issues where all of us can realistically expect to play an immediate and direct role. The portents are more encouraging now than they have been for many years. Results won't come without effort, and the stakes are high. But the task -- the reward for success and the penalty of failure -- are for everyone. Canada for one will continue to work in every way possible toward our common goal of a world of confidence, security, trust and peace.