



The other four aims are being pursued in related forums: the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, the Stockholm Conference and the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction talks in Vienna. The Canadian delegations at these conferences are seeking, in concert with our Allies, practical and equitable measures to reduce armaments and increase confidence.

I am pleased that our ambassadors who are engaged in the various disarmament negotiations are with us tonight and I am confident their contributions will both enliven and add considerably to your discussions. By way of illustration of this practical approach, Canada will provide to the UN Secretary-General a manual of procedures for investigating allegations of chemical weapons use. We have carried out a series of discussions with non-signatories of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to urge them to accede to this vital agreement.

At the Stockholm Conference we have explored with our NATO Allies new ideas on how the attainment of a substantial result can be facilitated.

Recent progress during the discussions at Stockholm portends concrete results from this important forum. At the Conference on Disarmament, Canada has tabled a study on the existing legal regime pertaining to outer space. This represents the first substantive contribution of any country to the work of the conference.

It is exactly through the cumulative effect of such practical measures that progress in arms control is most surely achieved. This basic stance underlies the Programme of Action Canada will advance throughout the last half of the Second Disarmament Decade. One of the predominant themes in that Programme will be Canada's decision to focus on the vital issue of the verification of compliance with arms control agreements.

Without the knowledge that one's partners in an arms control agreement are actually honouring their obligations, the whole purpose of the agreement and, by extension, the arms control process

itself, is called into disrepute. Verification is not an end in itself. Verification enhances the confidence of the parties.

In so doing, it creates a sense of predictability. And predictability is one of the most important outcomes of effective arms control.

For my own part, I have concentrated on developing channels of communication with leaders from both East and West, to facilitate an exchange of ideas and to convey Canadian concerns and practical suggestions. Last month, I wrote to General Secretary Gorbachev outlining Canadian views and priorities with respect to arms control and disarmament. I have, of course, been in frequent contact with President Reagan on a range of international issues. I was pleased to participate at the meeting which he hosted last week in New York of summit heads of government to discuss the forthcoming Geneva Summit.

It has been six years since the leaders of the USA and USSR have met. That is far too long in a world where superpower tensions cannot be left unattended. It would be preferable to regularize East-West summitry, to have the leaders of the USA and USSR meet, perhaps annually, to discuss problems and areas of common concern.

You can do much to promote the concept — and the reality — of Canada as a state with a vital role to play in building the political, economic and social structures of peace in a world of great change.

Postscript:

Earlier this afternoon I received a message from President Reagan outlining a new American proposal designed to achieve real reductions in nuclear arms. This development is indeed a positive and welcome step.

While it would be clearly inappropriate for me to discuss any of the details of the President's new proposals, I am pleased that this new USA initiative builds upon common ground and thus should provide a basis for serious and substantive negotiations."

Government Provides \$3.2 million to Upgrade Yellowknife Seismic Array

On February 7, the Government released a statement announcing its plans to upgrade the Yellowknife seismic array.

The following is the text of the communiqué.

"The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that the Government has agreed to provide \$3.2 million during the period 1986-1989 to upgrade the Yellowknife seismic array as a major Canadian contribution to monitoring an eventual comprehensive nuclear test ban (CTB).

The achievement of a CTB is a fundamental Canadian objective which Canada promotes multilaterally within the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva. Canada has played a particularly prominent role in verification, a central issue in which seismic technology is the key. Since 1976, scientists from the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources have participated in the international group of seismic experts in the CD working on technical aspects of a worldwide exchange of seismic data. Canada's leadership is internationally recognized in this area.

Yellowknife is recognized as a unique and sensitive location to monitor global seismic events including underground nuclear tests. Updating and modernization of the Yellowknife seismic array, which consists of a series of short-period and long-period seismometers, will enable Canada to contribute to an international system which will constitute an essential monitoring element of a negotiated CTB using the best technology available."