



# Statements and Speeches

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## ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS ESSENTIAL TO WORLD PEACE

An Address by the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, Secretary of State for External Affairs, at the twenty-fifth anniversary meeting of the Pugwash Movement, Pugwash, Nova Scotia, July 16, 1982

...Today, as never before, people throughout the world are increasingly concerned about the spiralling arms race and are looking not only to governments but to groups such as yours to generate possible new approaches to the complex issues of arms control and disarmament.

The founding of the Pugwash Movement anticipated this increased public interest. The manifesto issued by Bertrand Russell and Albert Einstein called on governments to renounce war rather than follow a course which could put an end to the human race; the core of people's concern today is exactly that. As Prime Minister Trudeau put it at the second United Nations Special Session on Disarmament (UNSSOD II), the people of the world "are reminding political leaders that what is at stake is the crucial matter of the life or death of mankind."

The manner in which the Pugwash Movement has spread to embrace distinguished people in many countries reflects its importance. In Canada its influence continues to expand in what I consider to be a most significant way, because it's reaching out to the young men and women of our country. I'm referring to the birth a year ago of Canadian Student Pugwash, which held a well-organized and successful first conference in Ottawa and, a few weeks ago, an Atlantic Regional Conference in Halifax. The Canadian government was pleased to offer assistance for both of these conferences, as it did for your conference in Banff last summer.

During the next two days you will undoubtedly be discussing UNSSOD II which ended last week, and also the prospects for the period ahead. I should like to share with you some thoughts on each. In my view, it would be a mistake to dwell too long on what was not achieved at UNSSOD II or to succumb to the temptation of sustained hand-wringing about failure. Rather, we should be grateful that it was held at all in spite of an exceedingly unpropitious international atmosphere.

We should also welcome the fact that UNSSOD II preserved intact the viability of the United Nations system to deliberate constructively on international security matters, particularly arms control and disarmament. Despite the temptation to vote resolutions which could not achieve consensus, the non-aligned countries in the end chose the path of realism rather than a procedure which could only devalue the system.

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