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## KEY INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

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Canada and France share similar international concerns and, not surprisingly, their views on many current questions converge. The two countries consult frequently at both the political and official level and, from time to time, they co-sponsor common initiatives.

There are a number of subjects that are regularly discussed in high level meetings: disarmament and arms control, multilateral trade negotiations, Central America, the Middle East and terrorism.

### *Arms Control and Disarmament*

As Allies, Canada and France approach defence and security-related issues with a shared set of concerns and understandings about the global security environment.

Canada has consistently held the view that the existing arms control regime should be upheld until such time as agreement is reached on an improved regime of strategic arms control.

While Canada has supported US research into space-based anti-ballistic weapons systems, viewing such research as prudent in light of continuing Soviet activity in this area, we have not signed a government-to-government agreement with the United States on SDI.

The Government of Canada has strongly supported the American negotiating position at the Nuclear and Space Talks (NST) in Geneva. We are encouraged by the determination being demonstrated by both the US and the Soviet Union to build on the progress that was made at the meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev in Iceland last year. As significant reductions in ballistic missiles would have implications for Canada insofar as they could result in greater reliance on bombers and cruise missiles, Canada is following the Geneva NST with particular attention. Canada has welcomed the recent Soviet proposal for a separate agreement to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) in Europe, and the tabling of an Ameri-

can draft agreement on INF in Geneva. Important issues concerning verification and short-range INF remain to be resolved.

Canada has been an active participant in multilateral fora addressing conventional arms control. We are actively engaged in the preliminary discussions now under way in Vienna among the NATO nations and the Warsaw Pact, which are aimed at consideration of a mandate for new comprehensive arms reductions negotiations covering the whole of Europe. Concurrently, in Vienna, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe follow-up meeting is discussing security issues and confidence-building measures.

Canada is also active in the negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva aimed at concluding a comprehensive, verifiable ban on chemical weapons.

### *Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN)*

The GATT Contracting Parties, which includes Canada and France, met at Punta del Este, Uruguay, this past September and launched a new round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN). It will establish the rules for global trade into the 21st century. The MTN represents both a challenge and an opportunity for Canada to find forward-looking solutions to the current and emerging problems facing the international trading community. Canada approaches the Uruguay Round with a sense of urgency, determined to fight protectionist trade and to restore the momentum towards further trade liberalization.

Canada is determined to play a constructive role in the MTN to lower global trade barriers and create more transparent and effective rules of the game. All of Canada's significant trade partners, including France, will participate in this multilateral round. Thus the MTN can serve to enhance Canada's trade relations with all trade partners.