

Canada believes firmly in the value of the confidential negotiating forum. It is, in the end, irreplaceable. But it can be aided through techniques such as special envoys and, as we have just seen, by Summits. We would urge both superpowers to continue to use all these techniques, and not rely on negotiating in public.

If a Summit in Washington this fall is now unlikely, setting a date for early next year could help maintain the impetus of the process.

Canada is involved in East-West relations as a member of the NATO Alliance. That Alliance is the foundation of our security. What happens at the negotiating table between the USSR and the USA has a direct bearing on our own security. We are at the same time a nation dedicated to peace. Canadians have always worked for peace and international understanding. We have not, and will not hesitate to make our views known: publicly when that is appropriate, privately on a permanent basis.

But Canada's role is not simply to give advice. Many of the persisting obstacles to negotiating progress arise directly from a lack of trust. The priority attention Canada has given to verification issues in particular attacks this question directly. Arms Control agreements alone do not produce security; confidence in compliance produces security. Verification justifies that confidence. Such an approach enhances the credibility of our counsel.

Canada's participation as a Western country in the process of building East-West relations will continue. The visit to Canada in the last month of Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and the Czechoslovak Prime Minister were part of this process. And early next month I will travel to Vienna for the opening of the CSCE Follow-Up meeting which deals with East-West relations from the human rights, security, economic and human contact dimensions. It provides us with another opportunity to move the process ahead in an integrated comprehensive manner.

Our hopes for real progress in East-West relations were strengthened by the developments at Reykjavik. Canada has been in touch with both sides, before and since the meeting in Iceland. We will continue to use all our resources to help the United States and the Soviet Union build on what they began.