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Canada: Disarmament and Arms Control

In a speech to the Second United Nations Special Session on Disarmament on June 18, 1983, Prime Minister P.E. Trudeau outlined Canadian policy on disarmament and arms control. He explained that the policy had two elements: the "strategy of suffocation" and negotiations to produce a stable nuclear balance at lower levels.

The "strategy of suffocation" includes a comprehensive test ban, a halt to the flight testing of all new strategic delivery vehicles, a cessation of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes, and a limitation, and eventual reduction, of military spending for new strategic weapons systems. The Prime Minister emphasized that a combination of these elements would provide a more coherent, efficient and promising instrument for curbing the nuclear arms race. In his speech in New York, the Prime Minister pointed out that this strategy could not be applied unilaterally. It would require negotiated agreements between the nuclear powers.

Canada's policy on disarmament and arms control has two complementary components: the suffocation strategy which seeks through negotiated agreement between the nuclear powers to inhibit the development of new weapons systems, and a negotiating approach aimed at qualitative