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Canada Believes Hopes for Progress in East-West Relations Strengthened by Reykjavik Summit

On October 21, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, addressed the House of Commons on the subject of the US-USSR Summit Meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland. Following is the text of his address.

"Over our Thanksgiving weekend, the eyes of the world were focused on Reykjavik. There, the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union met to reinvigorate the summit process begun last year in Geneva and to narrow some of the many differences which divide them. Their goal was to give the process impetus, and they succeeded.

Arms control and security are the central international issues of our time and the manner of their resolution will shape the global outlook for decades to come.

It is still too early to provide a final assessment of this latest meeting. The task now in Washington and in Moscow is to ensure that the progress which appears to have been made is not wasted. All governments share in this responsibility and we in Canada must do our part.

Today, as a contribution to our own discussion and debate within this House, and in the country at large, I would like to make some brief observations about the nature of the Reykjavik meeting in the broad context of East-West relations.

First, it would be well to remember that Reykjavik was but one staging point in the difficult and unending process of managing the relations between East and West. During the meeting, both



Mr. Clark addressing the House of Commons.

sides moved more than anyone had thought possible. Immediately after the meeting, both sides reflected their disappointment that the breakthrough that was so close did not occur. Now reflecting on that progress, both sides agree that the proposals made in Iceland are still on the table and in negotiation.

This process of building East-West relations has been proceeding with renewed intensity since January 1985. Reykjavik was designed not to conclude new agreements but to lay the ground for them. Whether history will judge it a success depends entirely on the use that is made of the progress in Iceland.

The most notable aspect of the Reykjavik meeting is the extent to which the sides were able to reach understandings on the whole range of nuclear weapons and testing. They agreed provisionally to reduce by 50 per cent within five years

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