



communiqué

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NEW GORBACHEV ARMS CONTROL PROPOSAL

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today welcomed as a positive development the statement of General Secretary Gorbachev indicating the willingness of the Soviet Union to conclude a separate agreement on intermediate range nuclear missiles in Europe.

Canada has actively supported the idea that an INF agreement should not depend on agreement being reached in strategic arms or on defensive systems. This support flows from Canada's belief that allowing achievable progress to be consolidated in concrete agreements is the most effective means of moving forward the arms control process and improving East-West relations.

Mr. Clark cautioned that an agreement was far from assured as important related issues such as shorter range intermediate nuclear weapons and verification need to be addressed. However, he urged both the USSR and the USA to negotiate in a constructive spirit.

An early INF agreement and a revival of the Summit process would assist the further improvement of East-West relations and provide an important impetus to other arms control negotiations.