

STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TALKS (START)

Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament
(Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, July 1987)

The evident seriousness with which the USA and the USSR are pursuing additional arms control agreements is a further reason for encouragement. In particular, the priority attention now being given to the negotiation of a major reduction in strategic nuclear weapons deserves our full support. The successful conclusion of such an agreement would be a key contribution to the central objective of the arms control process - enhanced security at much lower levels of armaments.

(SEE ALSO ANTI-BALLISTIC MISSILE TREATY, BILATERAL
NEGOTIATIONS AND STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS (SALT II))

STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE (SDI)

Secretary of State for External Affairs, (Statement,
March 5, 1987)

Canada has expressed its support for the Strategic Defence Initiative research program as a prudent measure in light of significant similar Soviet activity in the field of ballistic missile defence. We believe, however, that any transition to a greater dependence on strategic defences should be undertaken on a mutually agreed basis by both superpowers and should be combined with significant reductions in strategic offensive forces. We would urge the USA to continue this efforts at the Geneva negotiations to accomplish this latter goal in seeking an agreement with the USSR on the basis of the latest American proposal. At the same time the SDI program should continue to be pursued within the current restrictive interpretation of the ABM Treaty. We welcome the assurance by Secretary of State Shultz that the USA Administration considers premature any decision on deployment of a ballistic missile defence at this point.

Prime Minister, (North Atlantic Assembly, Quebec City,
May 23, 1987)

Strategic defences should not be seen as intrinsically good nor as inherently evil. Canada has supported research into strategic defence because knowledge is required in order to make informed and meaningful judgements.

(SEE ALSO ANTI-BALLISTIC MISSILE TREATY (ABMT)
AND BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS)