

Canada Weekly

Ottawa
Canada

Volume 11, No. 41
November 16, 1983

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Prime Minister Trudeau pledges determination to ease East-West tension

In a speech to the Conference on Strategies for Peace and Security in the Nuclear Age held at the University of Guelph, Ontario, October 27, Prime Minister Trudeau warned the 500 delegates that "the risk of accident or miscalculation is too great for us not to begin to repair the lines of communication with our adversaries". The Prime Minister also suggested that, as the time for deployment draws closer, what is required in the world today is "a 'third rail' of high-level political energy to speed the course of agreement". Following are excerpts from Mr. Trudeau's remarks:

...I will tell you right away that I am deeply troubled: by an intellectual climate of acrimony and uncertainty; by the parlous state of East-West relations; by a superpower relationship which is dangerously confrontational; and by a widening gap between military strategy and political purpose. All these reveal most profoundly the urgent need to assert the pre-eminence of the mind of man over machines of war.

There is today an ominous rhythm of crisis. Not just an arms crisis. It is a crisis of confidence in ourselves, a crisis of faith in others. How can we change that ominous rhythm? That is the question which brings me here tonight....

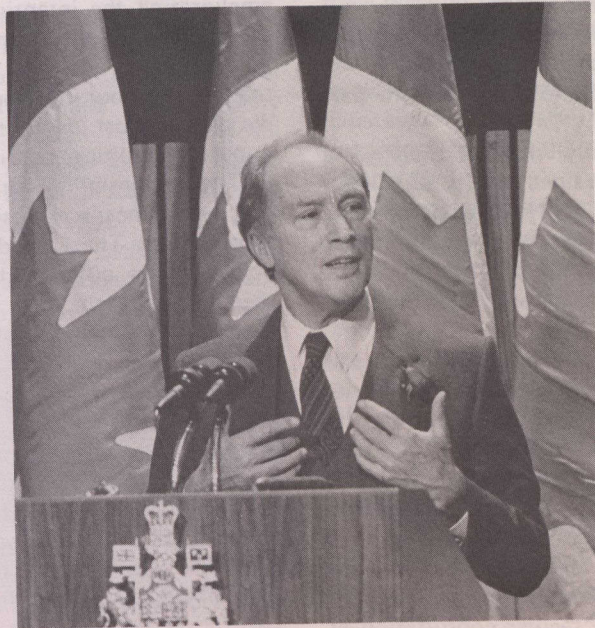
Too often our knowledge and our judgments are true and false at the same time. This is often the distinctive sign of rapidly changing realities which tend to elude our understanding. For example we know that there are, in the Eighties, many new kinds of power and many new centres of power. There is the power of oil, or of cheap labour, or of regional hegemony.

We call it a multipolar world — which suggests that no nation can act in isolation, that no power is truly dominant. But surely it is also true, and perhaps now with a special force, that the superpower relationship is at this time as dominant and as crucial as it ever was in the Fifties — when we had a more simplistic bipolar model with which to understand the world.

Another example: military strength is the subject of much debate these days. This is a positive sign. Many strategies, in rightly trying to increase the odds against the nuclear gamble, advocate increased strength in conventional weapons, and new doctrines for conventional deterrence. Some of these doctrines have the sound purpose

of delaying, or even preventing, the terrible resort to nuclear weapons in any European conflict.

I believe that such a raising of the nuclear threshold in Europe is a concept of the first importance. It would not be an easy, or an inexpensive task. But even as I am attracted to this concept in



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