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Prime Minister Mulroney's Johns Hopkins University Address, Baltimore, Maryland, May 21, 1992: Excerpts on Nuclear Proliferation

"... The greatest single threat to world peace today comes from the thousands of nuclear weapons stored in the suddenly impoverished, politically volatile, countries of the former Soviet Union. Vast amounts of nuclear weapons-grade plutonium and enriched uranium are also stockpiled there. Couple these facts with the nuclear ambitions of a few international pariah states and the dangers are unmistakable.

That is why Canadians and people everywhere applauded the far-reaching nuclear weapons reduction moves by President Bush and President Yeltsin. It is urgent that the START cuts be ratified and implemented as soon as possible. We are very pleased by the progress made on strategic weapons by President Bush in his recent meetings with President Kravchuk of Ukraine and President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan. Had these two republics not agreed to honour the START agreement and to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty as non-nuclear weapons states, they would have been the world's fourth and fifth largest nuclear powers.

Canada would welcome still deeper cuts in nuclear arsenals on all sides, while the cutting is good, to the lowest possible level consistent with effective nuclear deterrence. This makes security sense and economic sense for all concerned...

Canada would be prepared to join in an international program to assist the countries of the former Soviet Union in the destruction of nuclear weapons. Reduction of super-power weapons stockpiles is vital for its own sake and crucial to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons states. Nothing is more important than the prevention of nuclear proliferation. There is no room at all for slippage on this issue.

I believe that there are several important steps the world community should take to make sure proliferation does not happen. First, it is imperative that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty be strengthened when it comes up for review in 1995. All countries must sign it. And it must be extended indefinitely. As part of an effective international effort, Canada would be prepared to terminate all of its economic cooperation programs, including aid and tariff preferences, with any country, including the new republics of the former Soviet Union, that undermines the Non-Proliferation Treaty, through action or inaction.

Second, nuclear cheating must be stopped. To stop the cheating, the mandate of the International Atomic Energy Agency must be strengthened and its resources increased. The budget of the IAEA is currently \$180 million per year, or about half the cost of one B-1 bomber. Canada will support giving the IAEA the teeth — the authority and the resources — to inspect any country any time. We will also support U.N. Security Council action to force compliance with international rules, as is currently being done in Iraq.



CANADA