



We will not, however, be talking only amongst ourselves. This Government is committed to promoting a more active and meaningful dialogue with the countries of the Eastern bloc. In September the Prime Minister wrote to General Secretary Gorbachev outlining Canadian views and priorities with respect to arms control and disarmament. Last month I sent a team of Canadian officials to Moscow for consultations on arms control with the top Soviet experts, Ambassadors Petrovsky and Karpov. Similar consultations are planned with other East European countries this year. We are ensuring that the key players in international security affairs are made directly aware of Canadian views.

What else can Canada do? What special practical contributions can we make to arms control?

This Government's activity will be focused in three directions: 1) encouraging compliance with existing treaties; 2) developing verification mechanisms and 3) building confidence between East and West.

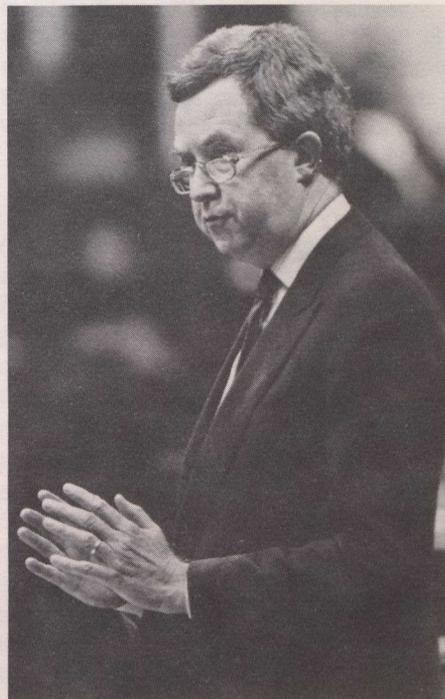
To deviate from a policy of full compliance is to threaten the credibility, and hence the viability, of arms control. Canada firmly supports the regime created by the ABM Treaty and the existing SALT agreements on limiting strategic forces. Our stance towards SDI research is rooted in the need to conform strictly with the provisions of the ABM Treaty. We will continue to urge the parties to these treaties to do nothing to undermine their integrity, but rather work to reinforce their status and authority.

Effective verification provisions can help ensure compliance with arms control treaties as well as facilitate their negotiation. Verification is an area where Canadian expertise and diplomacy come together. At the UN this fall, a Canadian-initiated resolution on verification was unanimously adopted. We are second to none in our activity to develop verification procedures and technology that meet the practical requirements of arms control agreements actually under negotiation or envisaged.

To cite only the most important projects recently completed or underway:

1. the Peace Satellite, or *PAXSAT*, project examines the technical feasibility of a satellite-based system for monitoring potential arms control agreements covering outer space or conventional forces in Europe;
2. research into seismic technology for detecting low-yield nuclear tests that pose a major obstacle in the way of agreement on a nuclear test ban;
3. the elaboration of operational procedures for effective investigation of incidents of alleged chemical weapons use, the results of which have recently been handed over to the UN Secretary-General;
4. the tabling at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva of a working paper on the nature of the legal regime governing outer space.

We must not forget that the prospects for progress on arms control are clearly linked to an improvement in the general East-West relationship. Confidence can be gradually generated through political



*The Secretary of State for External Affairs addressing the House of Commons on January 23.*

Canapress

actions that promote East-West consultation and cooperation.

The enhancement of the political dialogue with the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe and the inclusion in it of a healthy element of people-to-people contact are major objectives of our Government. This past year has seen an impressive number of high-level visits between Canada and Eastern bloc states. Both the Prime Minister and I visited the Soviet Union, and Mr. Kelleher and Mme Vézina travelled *inter alia* to Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria. We received in Canada the Romanian President, the Premier of the Russian Republic and the Deputy Prime Minister of Hungary.

Canada was host to the Human Rights Experts Meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and is playing an active part in the other CSCE-mandated meetings which are working to realize the principles of the Helsinki Final Act. These include the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures, the Bern meeting on human contacts, and the Vienna Follow-Up Meeting which will convene in November to review the whole spectrum of CSCE activity. Last summer I joined the Foreign Ministers of the other CSCE participating states in Helsinki to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Final Act and to reaffirm our commitment to increase the level of security and cooperation in Europe. Canada believes the CSCE can be an important vehicle for advancing our security and humanitarian goals.

So, as the fourth round of Soviet-American nuclear arms talks gets underway in Geneva, this Government will assist, in every way possible, the process of negotiation towards an equitable agreement. By encouraging compliance with the fundamental arms control treaties, by developing practical solutions to verification problems and by supporting an improvement in the East-West political relationship, Canada can make a distinctive and significant contribution to realizing the critical objectives of the Geneva negotiations. That is our goal, our duty, and our Canadian tradition."