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Peace and disarmament: Canada's foreign policy concerns

In his first official speech as secretary of state for external affairs, Joe Clark declared that peace and disarmament will be the "dominant priority" of Canadian foreign policy under the new Conservative government.

Speaking at the General Assembly of the United Nations on September 25, Mr. Clark said that Canada "is determined to continue to play a leading role in the search for peace and disarmament".

Mr. Clark continued his address, saying: "We believe the nuclear buildup threatens the life of every Canadian, and the existence of human society. Countries like our own must use our influence to reverse that buildup and reduce the danger of destruction. That will be a constant, consistent, dominant priority of Canadian foreign policy.

Peace and freedom

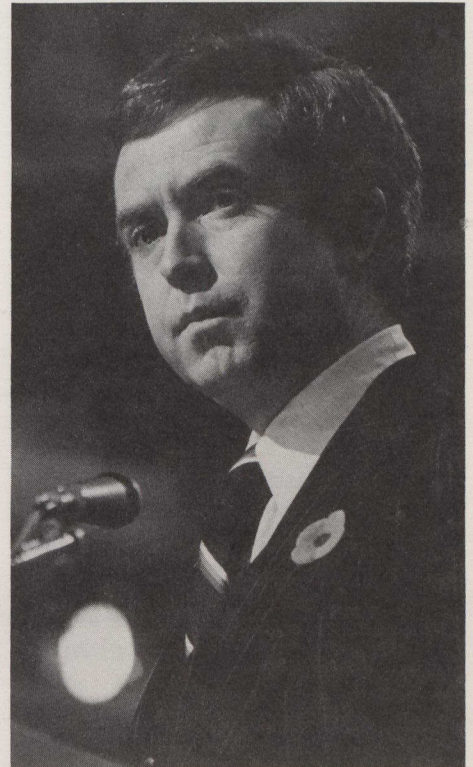
"We defend, and actively assert, the values of democracy and individual freedom. We believe it is essential to pursue the goals of peace and freedom simultaneously.

"We shall seek, through concrete and realistic steps, progress toward a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. We shall encourage superpower and multilateral discussion on all outer space weapons, and shall commission further studies on how a space weapons ban might be verified.

"We shall work for the success of next year's Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, in order to prevent the horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons. We shall bring to bear our technical expertise in verification measures to ensure mutual confidence and security in areas where arms control agreements can be achieved.

"We shall encourage agreement on a mutual and balanced reduction of conventional forces in Europe, and hence reduce the danger of escalation to nuclear war. We shall continue to press for a verifiable convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons.

"Canada will continue its financial support of the World Disarmament Campaign. We shall, in addition, expect that the newly-



Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark spoke at the General Assembly of the United Nations on September 25.

created Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security will contribute its share of studies and advice on specific arms control proposals and measures to reduce international tension.

Committed to the UN

Stressing Canada's strong commitment to the United Nations, Mr. Clark reiterated Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's pledge that the new government would "play a more active role in the United Nations and its agencies".

"Our government is committed strongly to the United Nations.... A dynamic United Nations system is essential for countries like Canada — and equally for the superpowers," he said.

Mr. Clark indicated that Canada's role in associations of countries like the Com-



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