



Adequate verification measures are the key to progress in all the present negotiations and essential for building trust and openness. Any agreement should enhance confidence of compliance and strengthen the existing treaty regime. We are prepared to accept comprehensive verification measures, on a fully reciprocal basis, including systematic on-site inspections.

But the development of peaceful and realistic East-West relations requires more than arms control. The human dimension remains crucial: this embraces respect for human rights and encouragement of individual contacts. Moreover, a more co-operative East-West relationship, including political dialogue, trade, and cultural exchanges, in which all states participate on equal terms, is needed.

We reaffirm the importance each of us attaches to the CSCE process in all its aspects. At Stockholm we are pressing for agreement on a substantial set of confidence and security building measures by September 1986. We are determined to further the CSCE process at the Vienna CSCE Follow-up meeting in November, which should be opened at a political level.

We underline the importance of the continued observance of the Quadripartite Agreement on Berlin and, particularly in view of the current situation, of maintaining freedom of circulation in the city.

Terrorism is a serious concern to us all. It poses an intolerable threat to our citizens and to the conduct of normal international relations. We are resolved to work together to eradicate this scourge. We urge closer international co-operation in this effort.

The purpose of our Alliance is to enable our peoples to live in peace and freedom, free from any threat to their security. We seek a productive East-West dialogue. This will enhance stability in our relations with the members of the Warsaw Pact. We call upon the Soviet Union and the other Eastern European countries to join us in this endeavour.

### **Halifax Statement on Conventional Arms Control**

— Within the Alliance, we cherish the ideal that all the peoples of Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals, should live in peace, freedom and security. To achieve that ideal, bold new steps are required in the field of conventional arms control.

— Our objective is the strengthening of stability and security in the whole of Europe, through increased openness and the establishment of a verifiable, comprehensive and stable balance of conventional forces at lower levels.

— To work urgently towards the achievement of this objective, we have decided to set up a high level task force on conventional arms control.

— It will build on the Western proposals at the CDE conference in Stockholm and at the MBFR negotiations in Vienna, in both of which participating Allied countries are determined to achieve early agreement.

— It will take account of Mr. Gorbachev's statement of 18th April expressing, in particular, Soviet readiness to pursue conventional force reductions from the Atlantic to the Urals.

— An interim report will be presented to the Council in October and a final report will be discussed at our next meeting in December.

— Our aim is a radical improvement in East-West relations in which more confidence, greater openness, and increased security will benefit all."

### **SSEA Reiterates Canadian Support for Compliance with SALT II Treaty**

*On May 27, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, issued the following statement on SALT II compliance.*

"As I said in the House in January, Canada strongly supports the arms control regime established by the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) and Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT) agreements and believes nothing should be done to undercut their authority.

We take very seriously the USA charges of Soviet non-compliance with arms control agreements. We have raised these charges with the USSR on several occasions including in correspondence from the Prime Minister to the General Secretary and have pressed the USSR to respond to them satisfactorily.

We welcomed the President's decision even in the absence of a satisfactory Soviet response to dismantle a Poseidon submarine last June and his plan to

scrap two Poseidons when the next Trident submarine goes to sea.

We are, however, very concerned about the implications of the President's stated intention to exceed SALT II limits late this year.

Unfortunately, the President's decision runs the risk of diverting attention from the existing problem of the Soviet arms control compliance record.

It is our fervent hope that in the time remaining before the end of the year the USSR and the USA will reach an understanding on means to ensure continued respect for the limits of the SALT II accord, until such time as a new agreement sharply reducing their nuclear arms is negotiated.

Our views on the importance of the USA abiding by the provisions of the SALT II agreement have been conveyed to the USA Government."