

While Canada is not a direct participant in negotiations with Russia on the control and reduction of nuclear weapons arsenals, there may be scope for a future direct Canada contribution to nuclear disarmament through cooperative projects involving the disposition of fissile material removed from the dismantled warheads of Russian and U.S. nuclear weapons. CIDA will also continue to work with Russia and to encourage like-minded states to work with Russia to ensure increased political and economic stability.

Finally, the Government welcomes the initiative proposed by President Clinton in January for increased international partnership with Russia and the other Newly Independent States to address their arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament obligations. Canada will contribute.



Beyond this, Canada should urge both parties to pursue progressive and reciprocal reforms to their respective nuclear postures.

Response

The Government notes that the analysis of the strategic needs assessments of the U.S. and Russia does not support a need even for the numbers of nuclear warheads specified by START II, as was clearly recognized by Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin in their March 1997 agreed Joint Statement on the Parameters on Further Reduction in Nuclear Forces. In this regard, Canada welcomes the Joint Statement, issued at the Helsinki Summit, in 1997, calling for the creation of a separate forum in the START III framework to discuss reduction measures related to tactical nuclear weapon systems.

Canada will continue to encourage Russia and the U.S. to negotiate confidence-building and transparency measures for tactical weapons such as a freeze on deployment, storage of all such weapons well away from and out of the control of operational units, basic data exchanges, verified dismantlement of excess systems and other incremental measures.