

BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

Ambassador for Disarmament, (United Nations Disarmament Commission, New York, May 3, 1988)

Recent international developments have contributed to an environment that bodes well for arms control and disarmament. In December 1987, the USA and USSR signed the INF Treaty which is the first agreement to eliminate an entire class of nuclear missiles. It is a particularly significant document in that it incorporates the principle of asymmetric reductions as well as precedent-setting provisions regarding destruction of these weapons and verification. Progress, even if not as fast as would wish, is also continuing with respect to an agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union concerning deep cuts in strategic nuclear missiles. Such an agreement would be one of the most significant arms control accomplishments since the Second World War and would have important positive ramifications in many other fields of international relations. Another promising development between the two superpowers has been the commencement of negotiations aimed at further limitations respecting nuclear testing.

(SEE ALSO INTERMEDIATE NUCLEAR FORCES (INF) AGREEMENT AND STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TALKS (START))

CANADIAN ROLE

Prime Minister, (Press Release, December 10, 1987)

I believe there are five essential principles by which Canada should be guided as we enter this new and path-breaking phase of East-West relations.

First, we must do everything possible to promote greater communication between the peoples of East and West. Through visits, through cooperation in the Arctic and in cultural exchanges, through trade, we can do much to break down the walls of distrust and suspicion.

Second, we must continue to make a full and effective contribution to collective defence, alongside our friends and allies. Working together and maintaining a strong deterrent, in conjunction with dialogue, has brought us this far; it can take us even farther. Canada is doing its part, as the Defence White Paper shows.

Third, I reaffirm our goal of vigorously promoting progress in arms control and disarmament. The objectives in the nuclear, space, chemical and conventional field that I set out in 1985 are as valid today as they were then. We will continue to work in every forum available to us - in NATO, in the Conference on Disarmament, in conventional arms talks - to