

Canada welcomes the commitment of both sides to follow up the START I Treaty with negotiations on a START II Treaty that would further cut the superpowers' nuclear arsenals.¹

PARLIAMENTARY COMMENT

During hearings before the Standing Committee on National Defence (SCND), Liberal member Fred Mifflin asked Ambassador Mason about what appeared to be slow progress on the START Treaty in contrast with the rapid changes at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and what this might indicate for START II. Ambassador Mason replied that to some degree, progress was dependent on eliminating the conventional asymmetries in Europe and discussed some of the difficulties associated with strategic arms control.

Whereas START I is getting rid of things they now recognize they do not need, START II will partly have to deal with identifying directions they have not gone in yet, directions they do not want to go in.... There is one other problem. The other problem has been that on both sides,...the top level has to be involved, ultimately, in all of this.... There is a limit to how much they can do at any one time,...²

¹Department of External Affairs. "Canadian Statement to First Committee," *Disarmament Bulletin*, no. 15, Winter 1990/91: 16.

²Standing Committee on National Defence. *Minutes and Proceedings*, no. 35, 13 December 1990: 16-17.