

superpowers' missile arsenals; allowing the INF's intended targets to be covered by other weapon systems; leaving NATO vulnerable to the Warsaw Pact's conventional forces; and containing verification provisions insufficient to ensure full compliance.

Following the defeat of a number of proposed "killer amendments", the US Senate approved the INF Treaty on 28 May 1988, by a vote of 93 to 5. The instruments of ratification were exchanged by President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev at the Moscow Summit on 1 June.

#### Current Canadian Position

In a statement issued on 10 December 1987, the Prime Minister declared the Canadian Government's approval of the signing of the INF Treaty:

I am sure that all Canadians applaud this treaty as a pragmatic step towards a better and safer world. It is a celebration of common sense over adversity.<sup>1</sup>

On the day the agreement was signed, Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark spoke of its importance, as well as of the importance of NATO unity and steadfastness:

This agreement is an unprecedented breakthrough in efforts to reverse the nuclear arms spiral and engage in actual reductions in nuclear arms rather than just their limitation. The INF accord will result in the complete elimination of an entire category of nuclear missiles and is therefore the first nuclear disarmament agreement in modern history.

---

<sup>1</sup> Office of the Prime Minister, Statement, 10 December 1987.