

INF agreement....We were part of the two-track decision of NATO. The two-track decision of NATO was a position of solidarity within the alliance. The Soviets knew they were not able as a consequence to split the West and achieve their goals so they had to agree to negotiation. What worked on the INF can work on strategic systems, and this Government intends to continue as we have in the past to recognise that solidarity in the West leads to progress in arms control" (*Hansard*, January 19).

## Disarmament

### **Gorbachev-Reagan Summit**

At their December summit in Washington, Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan signed the Intermediate Nuclear Arms Reduction Treaty (INF) on December 8. Defence Minister Perrin Beatty expressed caution by saying that the Soviet Union and its allies were still committed to communist domination despite the treaty. He added that Canada would continue to build up its conventional forces because the way to preserve peace was to "place no temptation for quick gain in the paths of the adventurous" (*Ottawa Citizen*, December 11).

Prime Minister Mulroney, in a statement released at the end of the 3-day summit, sounded a similar warning to Beatty's saying that, despite the success of the Washington Summit, the Soviet Union continues to pose a major threat to the Western world. "The Agreement to eliminate medium- and shorter-range missiles will have no impact on the weapons that threaten Canada — the long-range missiles and nuclear-armed submarines and bombers," read the December 11 statement from the Prime Minister's office. "Great pleasure," was expressed by Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark "at the signing of the historic agreement between the USA and the USSR to eliminate all ground-based Soviet and American intermediate-range nuclear missiles globally." Mr. Clark added, "The INF accord will result in the complete elimination of an entire category of nuclear missiles and is therefore the first nuclear disarmament in modern history" (*External Affairs Communiqué*, December 8).

Prime Minister Mulroney praised President Reagan for "staying the course" with a tough approach to an arms control agreement with the USSR. Mr. Mulroney said, "The West negotiated from a position of strength and the results have been good for all mankind" (*Ottawa Citizen*, December 8). Mr. Gorbachev sent a special emissary to brief Prime Minister Mulroney and other Canadian officials on the Soviet view of the superpower summit (*Ottawa Citizen*, December 18).

In the House of Commons on the day the agreement was signed (December 8) there were interventions. Gordon Taylor (P.C., Bow River) called on all to "keep our powder dry," for "the fundamental principles of the communists is the domination of the world," while Liberal Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis) "rejoiced at the first step toward the real summit of total disarmament, the real summit toward better comprehension and a better world." NDP

external affairs critic, Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill), reminded "those who want to keep the powder dry, that there are still enough nuclear weapons to kill us all ten times over," and called the agreement "a building block upon which future agreements to rid the world eventually of nuclear weapons are built" (*Hansard*, December 8).

### **Nuclear Free Zone**

A motion by Neil Young (NDP, Beaches) to declare Canada a nuclear arms-free zone was defeated in the House of Commons by a vote of 93 to 34 (*Hansard*, December 14).

## Human Rights

### **Committee Hearings**

Human rights behind the Iron Curtain and age discrimination in Canada were matters of study by the standing Committee of the Commons on Human Rights during the December/January period. The Committee travelled across Canada holding hearings, as well as sitting in Ottawa to hear from officials from the embassies of Czechoslovakia, the USSR and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

### **Iran**

Bill Atwell (P.C., Don Valley East) spoke about the religious persecution and imprisonment of Baha'is in Iran (*Hansard*, December 1). According to him, apart from the danger to personal life, "all of their holy places and religious sites have allegedly been confiscated and many, including the holiest Baha'i shrine have been fully destroyed." Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Jean-Guy Hudon, verified the charges of arrests without cause, of torture and arbitrary executions and also of discrimination against the Baha'is in Iran. Mr. Hudon informed the House that Canada would be sponsoring a resolution before the United Nations on human rights in Iran and had appealed to Iranian authorities to show compassion for the members of the Baha'i faith held in prison (*Hansard*, December 1).

### **Haiti**

The Chairman of the Human Rights committee, Reginald Stackhouse, (P.C., Scarborough West), made a speech decrying the November 29 massacre on polling day in Haiti. Jean-Guy Hudon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, stated that Canada's Minister for External Relations had asked Canada's Ambassador to Haiti to convey to President Namphy Canada's "deep deception [sic] as a result of the cancellation of the election, as well as indignation with respect to the circumstances which brought about this decision" (*Hansard*, December 1). (See Haiti under Bilateral and in this section under Aid.)