In a statement released after the Tokyo meeting, former Secretary of State for External Affairs, Joe Clark stated:

The Gulf War showed us the tragic impact of uncontrolled trade in missile technology and weapons of mass destruction. The Missile Technology Control Regime is an important forum for addressing these issues, but it would be stronger and more effective if more exporting countries were involved.⁵

In discussing proliferation concerns, the Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament, Peggy Mason noted that:

Perhaps even more destabilizing, ...has been the proliferation of ballistic missile technology. This is having two main effects: it compounds the danger presented by nuclear and chemical weapons proliferation and it is extending the reach of new powers into the developed world. International efforts...have come too late to do anything but slow down and hinder the development of ballistic missiles in a number of countries in the next few years.⁶

In discussing the Government's broad-based initiative on a world summit and proliferation, Ambassador Mason spoke of the need for proliferation to be dealt with as an issue related to regional stability as well as arms control.

...unilateral and multilateral controls on the part of suppliers alone cannot provide permanent answers. Proliferation, as a process, will be largely inevitable as long as the underlying factors that motivate weapons acquisition remain in play. To be effective, approaches to proliferation must form part of a broader security policy that aims at involving regional powers in stabilizing structures.⁷

PARLIAMENTARY COMMENT

There was no parliamentary comment on this issue.

⁵Department of External Affairs. "Canada Supports Stronger Controls on Missile Technology Transfers," News Release, no. 78, 25 March 1991.

⁶Ambassador Peggy Mason. "A New Security Agenda, Speech to the Conference on the Changing Soviet Union: Implications for Canada and the World," 28 November 1990: 7.

⁷Ambassador Peggy Mason. "Opening Remarks to the Meeting of the Consultative Group on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs," Montreal, 20 March 1991: 7.