

a further period of five years, but the Government has noted that this does not preclude withdrawal on twelve months notice, or even sooner should circumstances change. As the place of cruise missiles in the strategic arms talks becomes better defined, and if the United States requests agreement to test new types of advanced cruise missiles, it may well be appropriate to reappraise the Testing Agreement and clarify the circumstances in which Canadian co-operation is offered.

5) The Public Debate in Canada

There were many encouraging developments concerning the public discussion of issues of peace and security. Perhaps most importantly, media coverage of international issues was both more extensive and of a higher quality. The number of journalists assigned to postings in Moscow has increased significantly, thereby providing Canadians with reports on Soviet developments which are varied in political viewpoint, wide-ranging in their accounts of the changes taking place in Soviet society and politics, and which reflect Canadian interests. Reporting from Central America and from Africa has also contributed to Canadian discussion of issues in these parts of the world.

More difficult to assess is the health of the peace movement in Canada, and the changing nature of the debate about defence and disarmament. The absence of major demonstrations and other highly visible activities may not be the best indicator of public concern about security issues. Public concern remains high, with many Canadians still willing to contribute financially and volunteer their time to activities intended to demonstrate their concern for a more stable and secure future. Peace and security issues will only retain a high place on the political agenda if debate remains vigorous between those who believe that deterrence and a