

"Even apart from the scientific value of the expedition - and it, of course, yielded much material of use to medicine, geophysics and ecology - the fact alone of such an international pooling of effort, evokes deep feelings of gratification.

"We understand this with special clarity now, when, in the situation of vast danger threatening humanity, amid profound anxiety for our common tomorrow, we see breaking through the icy minefield of many years' confrontation a new concept of the world and new political thinking, in which mistrust must yield to mutual understanding, hostility to goodwill, and alienation and indifference, to sympathy and cooperation.

"This is precisely the kind of world that we have dreamed about. And today we have passed from a dream to deeds encompassing different regions and spheres interconnected into a single intelligent program. We can see such a program in the proposals that Mr. M.S. Gorbachev delivered at the 43rd Session of the UN General Assembly.

"The joint crossing by citizens of the USSR and Canada, the two largest Arctic countries, not only separated by an ocean, but also belonging to different social systems and different military and political groupings, is a momentous contribution to strengthening mutual understanding between peoples.

"As Mr. Brian Mulroney, the Prime Minister of Canada, said in greeting the participants of the crossing in his country, you have proven that it is possible to work together in striving to achieve a common goal, despite all differences. And, as you see, we fully agree with this.