

EAST-WEST RELATIONS

Ambassador for Disarmament, (Cross-Canada Tour,
December 8, 1987)

At their Reykjavik Summit of 1986, both President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev suddenly projected a vision of a nuclear-free planet, which startled the world with its implication that East-West confrontation might possibly give way to a new approach to international cooperation. This vision requires many steps to bring it about, but the continuing discussion of the full meaning of Reykjavik itself represents a new sense of direction for the international community.

INTERMEDIATE NUCLEAR FORCES (INF) AGREEMENT

Secretary of State for External Affairs, (Communiqué,
December 8, 1987)

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.

The outcome of the INF negotiations has reaffirmed the validity of NATO's December, 1979, "double-track" decision. It underlines the important role Alliance unity and solidarity have played throughout. The difficult decisions taken over the past 8 years on the issue of INF have had a direct bearing on the successful outcome of these negotiations. Canada is satisfied with the results and looks forward with anticipation to similarly successful conclusions to other arms control negotiations currently underway.

Prime Minister, (Statement, December 10, 1987)

On Tuesday December 8, (1987), President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev signed an historic agreement to eliminate intermediate range nuclear missiles. 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.

The agreement requires the complete dismantling and destruction of thousands of nuclear weapons. For the first time in the nuclear age, a whole class of superpower weapons will not be merely limited, but eliminated completely.

(SEE ALSO BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO))