

# Arms control a priority for Canada's foreign policy



Canada to 'enhance its contribution to the Western alliance'.

Last month, former Canadian prime minister, Pierre Trudeau, was awarded the US\$50,000 peace prize that is offered each year by the Albert Einstein Peace Foundation in Washington. Trudeau won the prestigious award for his 1983 peace crusade and for the nuclear suffocation proposals he first outlined to the United Nations in 1978.

The promotion of world peace and the pursuit of nuclear sanity have long been important goals for Canadian foreign policy. Under the new Progressive Conservative government, that emphasis will be maintained.

In one of his first addresses after his election victory, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney reiterated his government's commitment to what he called 'the central issue confronting our generation—the prevention of nuclear war and the need to inaugurate an era of assured peace for all the world.'

'No matter how much we may accomplish here in Canada, I will have failed in my most cherished ambition if, under my leadership, Canada has not helped reduce the threat of war and enhance the promise of peace,' Mulroney said.

'Canada is not a superpower, nor are we neutral in the struggle between freedom and totalitarianism. Canada is a member of the western alliance, and our government is determined to enhance our contribution to that alliance.'

'There can be no let-up in our efforts to reduce the threat of war. No matter how frustrating or

difficult, negotiations must be pursued. The exercise of political will is nowhere more important than on this issue on whose outcome the lives of our children and of humanity depend.'

## Address to the UN

This theme was reiterated by Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark in his first official speech at the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Clark told his audience that the pursuit of peace and arms reduction would be 'a constant, consistent, dominant priority of Canadian foreign policy' under the Mulroney government. 'Canada,' he said, 'is determined to continue to play a leading role in the search for peace and disarmament.'

To that end, the new government would seek progress toward a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; encourage superpower discussion on outer space weapons; work for the success of next year's Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference; continue its financial support of the World Disarmament Campaign; assist in the mutual and balanced reduction of conventional forces in Europe; and press for a workable ban on chemical weapons.

'Canada's influence is limited but real,' Clark told the Assembly. 'We have no corner on moral authority or technical expertise, but we do enjoy a reputation as a people who are serious about peace and skilled at mediation.'



## Three ministers responsible for Canada's foreign relations

Three new ministers are responsible for Canada's relations with the rest of the world. Joe Clark, as Secretary of State for External Affairs, is the senior member of the triumvirate, with James Kelleher as International Trade Minister and Monique Vézina as External Relations Minister.

Charles Joseph Clark was born in High River, Alberta, on June 5, 1939. He has a BA in history and an MA in political science from the University of Alberta, as well as an Honorary Doctor of Law from the University of New Brunswick. In 1983, he was made a member of the Alberta Order of Excellence. Clark and his wife, Maureen McTeer, have one daughter.

First elected to the House of Commons in the general election of 1972, Clark was chosen leader of the Progressive Conservative Party on February 22, 1976. He was sworn in as prime minister on June 4, 1979, following the May 22 general election. His government was defeated in the election on February 18, 1980. Clark was succeeded as party leader by Brian Mulroney on June 11, 1983.

James Francis Kelleher, born on October 2, 1930, in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, is a graduate of Queen's University and Osgoode Law School. Actively involved in many community affairs, a

few of his positions include: director, Ontario Housing Corporation; president, Plummer Memorial Public Hospital in Sault Ste Marie; member, Sault Ste Marie International Bridge Authority; director, Great Lakes Power Limited; and former chairman of the United Way Campaign. He and his wife Marie have two daughters.

Monique Vézina was born in Rimouski, Quebec, in July, 1935. She has been chairperson and a member of the board of directors of the Fédération des caisses populaires Desjardins du Bas Saint-Laurent for a number of years, as well as secretary and a member of the board of directors of the Confédération des caisses populaires Desjardins du Québec. In addition, she is chairperson of the Gérardin-Vaillancourt Foundation and a member of the board of directors of the Rimouski Chamber of Commerce and Société immobilière du Québec. She has also been very active in the community. She is married with four children.

Altogether, there are 40 ministers in the new Canadian Cabinet, making it the largest in the country's history. Seventeen have had ministerial experience—16 in the government of Joe Clark, and one (Veterans Affairs Minister George Hees) in the government of John Diefenbaker.



Joe Clark, Canada's Secretary of State for external affairs.