

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ROCHE

IN EACH CITY

Ambassador Roche began by noting: "The Washington Summit between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev provides an excellent moment for measuring world progress toward an enduring peace with security". The new foreign policy initiatives of the USSR call for western responses that could induce further change.

Nations arm because they feel their security to be threatened, and each nation will judge its own security in its own terms. Only when the threat to security is lessened is real disarmament possible. Thus, real security must be increased and the world must find politically possible ways to spend less money on arms and more on development.

Canada's approach to the peace and security issues is multi-dimensional. We now provide bilateral development assistance in form of grants rather than loans. Canada has stepped up its fight against apartheid and will establish an International Institute for Human Rights and International Development. In response to a request from the UN Secretary-General, additional peacekeeping troops have been sent to Cyprus.

Canada is not a neutral country. Canada is a dedicated member of NATO, whose importance lies not only in countering the military threat from the Warsaw Pact but also in its political support for democratic institutions and for upward East-West political relations. The multi-dimensional aspect of Canada's security policy has been outlined by Prime Minister Mulroney: "The pursuit of arms control and disarmament has its place beside the defence effort, peacekeeping and conflict resolution. All are essential components of Canada's approach to international peace and security".

Canada's priorities in the field of arms control and disarmament continue to be:

1. radical reductions in nuclear arms;
2. a negotiated and verifiable comprehensive test ban treaty;
3. maintenance and strengthening of the non-proliferation treaty;