

into force, have the effect of removing the most serious source of radioactive contamination of the atmosphere and the oceans, which constitutes such a hazard to human health and future generations. This in itself is a gain which every Canadian can fully appreciate and I am sure will heartily welcome. Secondly, as I have already indicated, this treaty does not constitute a comprehensive test ban but it should have the effect of creating an improved climate of confidence in which the total prohibition of testing may become negotiable. Thirdly, it is not a disarmament measure but it will go a long way towards restricting the further development of nuclear weapons, both qualitatively and quantitatively. One can hope that, building upon this present accomplishment, real measures of disarmament may also become more readily negotiable. Finally, the fact that it has been possible for the major powers to reach agreement is evidence of significant changes which may be taking place in the thinking of the Soviet leadership. It would be both premature and rash to assume that the cold war will cease as a result of the signature of this limited instrument. On the other hand it has now been demonstrated that agreement can be achieved by patient exploration of areas of common interest. The Canadian Government pledges itself to exert its influence towards a continuation of negotiations aimed at broader international understanding.