

Mr. Speaker,

This morning I tabled a statement on Canada's international relations, responding to the report presented in June by a Special Joint Committee of this House and the other place. That caps an unprecedented exercise in participatory democracy in the development of Canadian foreign policy.

Members of the Joint Committee held hearings across this country, from St. John's to Vancouver to Yellowknife. Thousands of Canadians made their views known, either directly or through organizations, on issues as diverse as arms control, export development and human rights in South Africa. The Committee produced a practical and sensible report, achieved by consensus and unanimous in its conclusions.

The response tabled today has two parts. First is a general statement of government policy in the seven main policy areas that the Special Joint Committee addressed. Second is a detailed response to all the recommendations made by the Committee. These number 121. The statement as a whole provides a picture of the government's foreign policy. It underlines our commitment to the constructive, internationalist approach that we have been pursuing from the moment we came into office.

The government accepts the great majority of the Committee's 121 recommendations, and has already carried out some of them.

There are a few recommendations we are unable to accept, sometimes because we believe the remedy suggested is not the best available, sometimes for financial reasons. In each instance we propose a different or less costly alternative.

Mr. Speaker. Through the Committee Canadians expressed deep concern about the need for progress in arms control. The government fully shares this concern. We welcome the Committee's support for the six arms control and disarmament objectives enunciated by the Prime Minister in October 1985.

With our allies we are working to build on the possibilities for progress identified at Reykjavik. Our common goal is to create a safer, more peaceful world, notably through radical reductions in nuclear arms. Canada is also using its influence to try to prevent the loosening of existing restraints on the arms race in space and on earth. We are playing an active role in multilateral forums. This year and last the UN General Assembly unanimously approved Canadian-