

ANTARCTIC TREATY ACCESSION

Secretary of State for External Affairs, (News Release,
May 4, 1988.)

Canada wishes to endorse a Treaty that has created the world's sole, effective non-militarized area. Canada is acutely aware of the uniqueness of the Antarctica and will, through accession to the Treaty, be better able to work for the protection of its sensitive environment and dependent ecosystems.

ANTI-BALLISTIC MISSILE TREATY

Secretary of State for External Affairs
(Statement, March 5, 1987)

The Canadian Government has consistently supported the USA in its adherence to the strict interpretation of the ABM Treaty. Any move to a broader interpretation could have significant political and strategic ramifications for international stability and security, and these require close scrutiny and considered analysis. Any unilateral action by either party to the Treaty that could have a negative impact on the current strategic balance would be regarded by Canada with profound concern. Furthermore, the potentially negative implications for the summit process, arms control and East/West relations generally need to be carefully examined before any such action is undertaken. In particular, the Government would greatly regret the implementation of any policy, by either party, with regard to the ABM Treaty that might adversely affect the Geneva negotiations; especially in view of recent developments on intermediate-range nuclear forces. We are sure that the United States is clearly aware of all of these possible consequences and will reflect upon them carefully in the context of its current considerations on this question.

(SEE ALSO BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND EAST-WEST RELATIONS)

ARMS REGISTRY

Under Secretary of State for External Affairs,
(Arms Transfer Conference, Ottawa, October 21, 1987)

For many countries a register of arms transfers would provide a full inventory of military capabilities. It is perhaps instructive in this regard to note that despite repeated UN resolutions scarcely more than 20 states register with the UN their levels of military expenditure. Canada is one of the few countries that does so.

(SEE ALSO CONFIDENCE BUILDING)