

The Washington Summit between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev provides an excellent moment for measuring world progress towards an enduring peace with security.

Clearly, the agreement to eliminate all medium and shorter-range nuclear missiles (INF) is a breakthrough in re-building East-West relations. For the first time an entire class of weapons will be destroyed. Although the Agreement will eliminate only 3 per cent of the world's nuclear arsenal, its political significance is enormous. The bilateral negotiating process has, in fact, achieved a concrete result.

And there is more on the horizon. The two superpower leaders are preparing another summit for 1988 in Moscow at which they hope to sign a treaty eliminating 50 per cent of the present huge stockpiles of strategic nuclear weapons. An historical process of disarmament is actually underway. These achievements represent a success for those countries, like Canada, that have been pressing both superpowers hard for radical reductions in nuclear weapons.

Of course, any outburst of euphoria is premature. Global problems involving regional wars, massive poverty, environmental destruction and the population explosion are immense. But it would be equally wrong to under-estimate the magnitude of this moment that the world is passing through. The air is filled with change.

At their Reykjavik Summit of 1986, both President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev suddenly projected a vision of a nuclear-free planet, which startled the world with its implication that East-West confrontation might possibly give way to a new approach to international cooperation. This vision requires many steps to bring it about, but the continuing discussion of the full meaning of Reykjavik itself represents a new sense of direction for the international community.

Mr. Gorbachev continues to demonstrate a desire for reforms in a more open Soviet Union. His economic reforms and foreign policy initiatives go well beyond style. Whether he can deliver a "new" Soviet Union, given unresolved questions of the Soviet satellite states, Afghanistan, and