



Finally, Mr. Gorbachev's words do not reflect the actions of his government. Unlike Canada or the Nordic countries, the Soviet Union has an enormous concentration of military forces and weapons in the Arctic region.

In Canada's view, the best prospects for progress towards enhanced security in the Arctic lie in a balanced, step-by-step approach to arms control and disarmament. Our security in the Arctic is a direct function both of the solidarity and cohesion of the Alliance, the climate of East-West relations and progress towards balanced reductions of nuclear weapons.

The North is deeply embedded in the consciousness of Canadians. The North conveys images of breathtaking beauty and of climatic extremes. We have contradictory impressions of vast natural resources locked in an incredibly fragile environment. We seek both modernization in the North and the preservation of traditional ways of life. We seek to protect the precious ecology and beauty of the North, while making it accessible to those from the South.

Throughout our history we have also had northern dreams, often dashed on

this harsh environment. I hope that we have drawn some lessons from our experience. I would like to suggest a few.

The first lesson is the crucial importance of cooperation. Only seven countries have territory north of the Arctic Circle. Only five of them border on the Arctic Ocean. While the North may be important to all of them, the vast majority of the populations of all these countries lies far to the south of the Arctic Circle.

If there is to be progress in meeting the challenges of the North, there must be a sharing of information, ideas, experience and technology by the few countries concerned. Canada and Norway are especially qualified to take the lead in sharing. Indeed, this seminar is of particular importance to developing that cooperation. Canada would consider hosting a further meeting of northern countries in 1988 or 1989.

Second, we should exploit improvements in East-West relations to pursue peaceful cooperation among all Arctic nations. The Soviet Union occupies 50

per cent of the Arctic shoreline. Although it is ahead of us in some areas of development, it has much to learn from us in other areas. We share problems such as the environment that demand cooperation.

...The third lesson is that we must all learn from the Inuit and the Saami, the people who have lived for many centuries in the North. And we can learn lessons that are relevant far beyond the northern environment. Let me quote Robert Williamson, a Canadian anthropologist who has devoted his life to the study of the North.

'In the Canadian Arctic . . . I found peace. It was the Inuit people there, and their values. They lived interdependently . . . They knew that their survival depended on harmony and cooperation. They had found ways of minimizing suspicion, channelling stress positively, and withdrawing with integrity from potential conflict.'

These are lessons we all must learn. In the North and in the whole world. Thank you."

## **Consultative Group Discusses 'Peace and Security in the Arctic'**

*The Consultative Group on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs met on October 1-3, 1987, in Cornwall to discuss Arctic peace and security issues. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Ambassador for Disarmament, Mr. Douglas Roche. The Consultative Group was created in 1979 in response to the recommendation of the First United Nations Special Session on Disarmament (UNSSOD I) in 1978. It meets periodically with the Ambassador for Disarmament and with officials of the departments of External Affairs and National Defence to exchange views on matters of mutual interest relevant to Canada's policies on disarmament and arms control.*

*Mr. Bob Hicks, M.P., the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, P.C., M.P., and Mr. Derek Blackburn, M.P., representing each major political party, participated in a post-dinner panel discussion on October 1. Among the 20 other meeting speakers were prominent members of non-governmental organizations and the academic and government communities.*

*The following excerpts from the executive summary of the October meeting of the Consultative Group on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs were prepared by the Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament as part of a contract with the Department of External Affairs. Copies of the full report*

*prepared by the Centre are available by writing to the Editor.*

As Ambassador for Disarmament Douglas Roche pointed out in his opening remarks, the Group was dealing with a vital and timely topic. With the continued dispute over the control of archipelagic waters, the possibility of large-scale resource exploration in the Arctic, and the prospect of increased military activity in the region, it is essential that Canada develop an Arctic policy that ensures Canadian sovereignty, protects the northern environment, and contributes to international peace and security.

The Consultative Group arrived at no consensus on the specific features a peace and security policy for the Canadian Arctic should assume. The Group