



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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## Canadian Disarmament Policy

Extracts from a General Statement on Foreign Policy to the House of Commons by Prime Minister Diefenbaker on February 11, 1960.

... What we believe in is that there should be an agreed Western position to serve as a point of departure in the negotiations with the U.S.S.R. in the 10-Power talks which start next month in Geneva, and this is what we are aiming at; to make a contribution by the submission of proposals and comments which will assist in bringing about a plan for international disarmament which will be realistic, negotiable, and at the same time not imperil national security.

... These are views expressed in summary which I think represent the thinking of Canadians as a whole on this matter. First, Canada's policy should be directed to the achievement of maximum disarmament and the reduction of armed forces which can be verified and controlled without endangering the security of the nation against aggression.

Second, whatever is done cannot be achieved overnight and will require to be done by steps or stages. To that end I suggest that immediate consideration and priority might be given to the control of missiles designed to deliver nuclear weapons of mass destruction and also to bring about an agreement whereby the location of missile sites should be designated.

Third, at the conference at Pugwash much was said regarding biological and chemical weapons. I believe the time has come that the nations should agree that the manufacture and use of biological and chemical weapons should be banned.

Fourth, we come to the problem which transcends all these problems, namely that of outer space. If we are to preserve the future of mankind I believe that outer space should now, before further advances are made in its exploration, be declared banned to other than peaceful purposes and that the mounting of armaments on satellites should be outlawed. These are several suggestions that I think represent initial steps, for if there is any desire on the part of the nations to bring about disarmament those principles could be accepted and I think should be accepted.