

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, today issued the following statement:

- As I said in the House in January, Canada strongly supports the arms control régime established by the ABM and SALT agreements and believes nothing should be done to undercut their authority.
- We take very seriously the USA charges of Soviet non-compliance with arms control agreements. We have raised these charges with the USSR on several occasions including in correspondence from the Prime Minister to the General Secretary and have pressed the USSR to respond to them satisfactorily.
- We welcomed the President's decision even in the absence of a satisfactory Soviet response to dismantle a Poseidon submarine last June and his plan to scrap two Poseidons when the next Trident submarine goes to sea.
- We are, however, very concerned about the implications of the President's stated intention to exceed SALT II limits late this year.
- Unfortunately, the President's decision runs the risk of diverting attention from the existing problem of the Soviet arms control compliance record.
- It is our fervent hope that in the time remaining before the end of the year the USSR and the USA will reach an understanding on means to ensure continued respect for the limits of the SALT II accord, until such time as a new agreement sharply reducing their nuclear arms is negotiated.
- Our views on the importance of the USA abiding by the provisions of the SALT II agreement have been conveyed to the USA Government.