



communiqué

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VISIT OF AMBASSADOR PAUL H. NITZE TO OTTAWA

The Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, has announced that Ambassador Paul Nitze, Chief United States negotiator for the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) will be visiting Ottawa for consultations on March 14 and 15. Ambassador Nitze will meet with Canadian Ministers and with officials to discuss the future of INF. These negotiations have been suspended since the unilateral departure of the Soviet delegation from the negotiating table in Geneva last November. Canada is a member of the NATO Special Consultative Group (SCG) which meets regularly to coordinate Western Alliance policy concerning these negotiations.

Canada hopes that the Soviet Union will recognize that the INF negotiations are in the common interest of the East as well as the West. As NATO Foreign Ministers stated in Brussels last December, the Allies believe that the Soviet Union shares an interest with the United States in reducing nuclear weapons through a negotiated agreement and therefore call for bilateral negotiations on intermediate range nuclear forces to resume as soon as possible. NATO Ministers also made it clear that deployments which began in Europe in accordance with the December 1979 two-track decision can be reversed if justified by an agreement.

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