

superpowers has become a greater barrier to arms reductions than is necessary or desirable. That is why Prime Minister Trudeau is trying to help to revitalize the dialogue between East and West, to restore to it the minimum degree of trust and confidence required to advance the cause of world peace.

It is important to bear in mind that Canada does not view the superpowers as moral equivalents. The United States is distinguished by values common to its friends and allies, above all the belief in liberty and democracy. But we believe that the world needs a better atmosphere if arms control talks are to have a chance to succeed.

We begin by acknowledging the existence of a mutuality of interest between the superpowers. This is not, in our view, wishful thinking. It is cold political realism. Both the United States and the USSR know that the other holds the key to its security. Both share a mutual interest in being free from the fear of accidental war and surprise attack. Both share a mutual interest in avoiding uncontrolled escalation of a crisis. Both have an interest in avoiding collisions with the other over regional conflicts. Both have an interest in stemming the horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the costly vertical proliferation of their own weapons, nuclear and otherwise.

The initiative launched by the Prime Minister of Canada is aimed at improving the atmosphere for discourse between the United States and the USSR and more generally between East and West.

We have made proposals -- a five-power conference of nuclear states; political impetus in the CDE and MBFR talks; stronger non-proliferation commitments; and new measures to contain the risks from new arms technologies. But we claim no monopoly of wisdom. Nor are we suggesting that there is a deficiency of concrete, imaginative and workable proposals. But we believe firmly that the achievement of an improved atmosphere would be, by itself, a political act of high significance.

The search for progress in these important areas should stem from confidence about our western values and about our military, economic and political strengths. To be successful, it must reflect a measure of respect for legitimate aspirations of the other superpower, despite what we think or know about its values, its capacities and its intentions. The objective, very simply, is greater dialogue at the highest level. Through dialogue may come commitment, based on a new level of mutual trust and mutual self-interest. There are no guarantees that such can be attained, but the alternative offers even less hope for the future.