

have taken a lead on the issue of verification but otherwise have been content to vote with most of our NATO allies against Resolutions which run contrary to NATO policies, such as a freeze on nuclear weapons or the prohibition of their use. However, the Government has not hesitated to object to American policies which appear to threaten East/West stability. These include the development of strategic defences beyond certain limits and exceeding the limits on strategic weapons set by SALT II.

a) Nuclear and Space Arms

In early 1985 the United States and the Soviet Union agreed to negotiate simultaneously on three classes of nuclear weapons: long range or strategic weapons, space weapons, and intermediate range weapons (between 1,000 and 5,500 kms). The signature of the INF Treaty on 8 December 1987, was the first fruit of these negotiations and appeared to augur well for the prospects of agreement on the two other classes of weapons. Throughout the talks the Soviet side made important concessions, agreeing finally not only to a separate treaty on intermediate range weapons, in which they had an advantage of almost four to one, but to the global elimination of all such weapons, including those of shorter range (between 500 and 1,000 kms). In addition, they accepted stringent provisions for on-site inspection, which no one had expected they would do when the talks began. It should be remembered, however, that thousands of short-range nuclear weapons remain in Europe and that these are not the subject of the current negotiations.

The joint statement issued at the end of the Superpower Summit in December noted that "considerable progress" had been made towards the conclusion of a treaty on strategic offensive arms, implementing the principle of 50 percent reductions, and