

# Too early to refuse cruise, disarmament envoy claims

By Vern Greenshields  
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It is "a little bit premature" to call for an end to cruise missile testing on the basis of this week's historic nuclear weapons reduction treaty, according to Canada's ambassador for disarmament.

Doug Roche said in an interview Thursday that elimination of cruise missiles "should be factored into negotiations for nuclear disarmament, and that will then ease the testing question."

The missiles are launched over the Arctic and land in the Primrose Lake Air Weapons range that straddles the Alberta-Saskatchewan border. Opposition politicians pointed out Wednesday that the Conservative government has always linked continued approval of the tests to progress in arms talks, but Prime Minister Brian Mulroney rebuffed their statements, citing the need for unity within the NATO alliance.

Roche said in Saskatoon that the pact signed in Washington calls for the elimination of ground-launched missiles, not air-launched units like the cruise.

He also noted both American President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev hope to hold another meeting in Moscow next year to sign an agreement to cut their arsenals in half.

"That would set a course for disarmament that would lead to subsequent steps, and down the line we'd get to cruise missiles."

Those steps to nuclear disarmament are dear to Roche's heart, and none more so than this first one. While it's a small step numerically — representing only about three per cent of each coun-

confidence will last, "than simply to have a piece of paper or a vision or declaration or something. In my political experience, I don't know how to get to a large goal outside of a series of steps."

In a speech prepared for delivery Thursday night to the United Nations Association in Saskatoon, Roche said the real key to disarmament is removing the cause for arming nations initially threats to security.

Ironically, he noted, the inflated arms race itself became a threat to security and now the huge suffering caused by under-development has become a growing threat to security.



Doug Roche

"Working constructively on all aspects of security — military, political, economic, social, humanitarian, human rights — creates conditions conducive to disarmament. It also provides the environment conducive to the pursuit of successful development."

"Thus, our purpose must be to increase real security — for individual nations and for the world — by finding politically possible ways to spend less money on arms and more on development."

Besides giving credit to the United States and the Soviet Union for signing this week's pact, he said some credit also should go to NATO allies which hung together in the early 1980s when the Pershing missiles were deployed in Europe, to Canada for its promotion of peace, and to peace groups whose constant attention to the issue kept it in the public consciousness.

try's arsenal — It is an enormous political step, he said. It means the two superpower leaders have committed themselves to a course of disarmament that is gaining momentum.

"Disarmament is now on the front pages of all the newspapers in the world because it is at the centre of the political stage. It used to be way off on the back burner but now it is absolutely central to international relations."

To those who argue the agreement is minimal in numerical terms, he said that "nobody wants to go to zero nuclear weapons more than I do."

However, it is better to do it by secure steps that both sides have