

There are no quick fixes in disarmament -- but there are long term strategies and on-going negotiations which have as their common goal security at lower levels of weapons, both nuclear and conventional. If the going is tough and seems slow, it is because the problems are excruciatingly difficult. In discussing the limitation or indeed dismantling of arms, we are dealing with the most intractable problems in the world.

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When the United States and the Soviet Union resumed bilateral negotiations last March on strategic and intermediate weapons and space weapons, the world momentarily breathed a sigh of relief. However, the difficulties of disarmament negotiations quickly became apparent. The statement by the SSEA, the Rt. Hon. Joe Clark on the resumption of talks has proven accurate. Mr. Clark cautioned:

"We should be under no illusion that the course charted at Geneva will be an easy one. What we are witnessing now is the beginning of a long and sensitive process." The agreement to resume talks, he added, "after a long and dangerous stalemate, offers a new chance, and the world cannot waste that opportunity."

Something more than negotiation is needed today. That "something" is political will. That is why the world has welcomed the announcement that President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev will meet for two days of talks next November in Geneva. President Reagan has said he regards the Summit meeting as "an opportunity to chart a course for the future." This course, leading to practical steps to improve US-Soviet relations, is urgently needed to unlock the disarmament impasse.

Canada has consistently worked to move forward the bilateral talks with their agreed objectives of preventing an arms race in space, terminating the one on earth; limiting and reducing nuclear arms; and strengthening strategic stability leading ultimately to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. These themes reflect Canada's own arms control priorities.

The goals of the superpowers are shared by the world and echoed throughout the multilateral disarmament forums. Concern with the problems of the nuclear arms race and reducing the threat of nuclear war are not the exclusive