

willing to give full consideration to any serious Soviet proposals that would enhance the chances for effective and verifiable agreements.

Recently, the Soviet Union made a proposal concerning possible reductions of intermediate-range nuclear weapons. While the proposal is unacceptable in many respects, it appears to recognize that NATO governments have a legitimate concern about the number of SS-20s aimed at their European member states, and that a reduction is necessary.

This in itself is progress. However, it is not yet clear both sides have accepted that mutual security must be the basis of the negotiations. That is why 1983 is crucial.

**Canada and the  
INF negotiations**

Canada has a large stake in the INF negotiations. We intend to press vigorously the following basic approach:

- Canada places its full weight behind the negotiations. We strongly support a negotiated solution that will make deployment of the missiles in Europe unnecessary.
- Likewise, in the absence of concrete results in the negotiations, Canada considers that there is no viable alternative to deployment of the missiles.
- Every serious proposal must be seriously examined. By the same token, propaganda ploys must not be permitted to undermine serious negotiations.
- Statements aimed at public opinion cannot be a substitute for genuine willingness to reach an agreement.
- Increased mutual security must be accepted as the fundamental consideration in the negotiating process.

Despite the obstacles, the Canadian government is convinced that these negotiations can demonstrate in 1983 that the arms control and disarmament process can be made to work.

**A year of  
opportunity**

1983 is also a year of opportunity for the Committee on Disarmament. Public concern about the issues is high. The need for early action is clear, and mutual security is also the foundation for our work here.

I see encouraging signs in this Committee since I was first responsible for Canadian foreign policy some seven years ago.

The presence now of China and France along with the other three nuclear weapon states is the most striking and hopeful development.

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