



# Statements and Speeches

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## A GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE

Address by the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Prime Minister, Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montreal, November 13, 1983.

... If our future depended on Canadians alone, we could be confident that it was safe and sound. But no nation today holds its future securely in its own hands. We share this planet with about 160 other nations, all of whom interact with us in a global system embracing our security, our economy, the health of our environment, and the quality of our lives.

Those 160 governments are, however, by no means the only players. The stage is crowded with alliances, with regional associations, with international institutions such as the United Nations, with multinational corporations, with cartels, pressure groups and lobbies of all kinds.

We are all of us — you and I, our friends and families, citizens, governments and corporations — on that crowded global stage, which is alive with our hopes and our fears, our failures and our successes. But there are today three dominant and disturbing trends which, when set side by side, threaten to bring down the curtain on our human performance.

The first trend is an increasing resort to the use of force in the settlement of international disputes. Despite the solemn affirmation of the UN Charter that "all members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force" there have been, since 1945, approximately 130 conflicts in which 35 million human lives have been lost.

There is a habit of aggression which is gaining ground: an abdication of the political process in deference to military solutions; a coarse element of belligerence, of menacing rhetoric, of governments which rise and fall at gun-point. The trend is global — and it is gathering speed.

This brutalization of political life takes on a particularly dangerous tone when it is driven by the clash of confrontational ideologies, and armed with sophisticated weapons, which claim an annual expenditure in the order of \$600 billion of nuclear and conventional arms combined. These weapons which claim too great a share of the budgets of impoverished Third World nations, promote a rising tide of violence and engulf more peaceful ways to resolve disputes. That is the first trend: the brutalization of international relations.

The second trend is the steady unravelling of the international regime designed to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

This proliferation has two fundamental directions. We call it vertical proliferation when we mean the development of ever-larger nuclear weapons programs, ever more-advanced in destructive technology, by the five nuclear-weapons states: the USA, USSR, France, the United Kingdom and China. We call

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