

In his cross-country tour, Ambassador for Disarmament Douglas Roche was optimistic over the direction in which arms control negotiations were heading:

An historical process of disarmament is actually underway. These achievements represent a success for those countries, like Canada, that have been pressing both superpowers hard for radical reductions in nuclear weapons.

He continued:

At their Reykjavik Summit of 1986, both President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev suddenly projected a vision of a nuclear-free planet, which startled the world with its implication that East-West confrontation might possibly give way to a new approach to international cooperation. This vision requires many steps to bring it about, but the continuing discussion of the full meaning of Reykjavik itself represents a new sense of direction for the international community.⁴

Caution has been expressed, however, due to the complexities of the arms control issue. The Prime Minister stated this clearly while speaking in reference to the agreement-in-principle on the INF negotiations in October 1987:

The next step, reduction of long-range intercontinental missiles, will undoubtedly be even more arduous and protracted than the negotiations which will culminate with

⁴ "Beyond the Summit: the Future of Disarmament (Address by Mr. Douglas Roche, Ambassador for Disarmament, 8 December 1987)," Department of External Affairs Statement 87/71, p. 1.