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INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

The Issue and its Setting

Effective management of East-West relations is fundamental to the maintenance of international peace and security. Arms control and disarmament (ACD) issues have acquired a central position on the East-West agenda in recent years. The Soviet delegation's walking out on negotiations with the USA on intermediate and strategic nuclear forces in December 1983 effectively prevented any negotiating progress on these issues during the subsequent year. In January 1985 agreement was reached on terms for resumed bilateral negotiations. These negotiations got underway March 12, 1985 and are continuing, with both sides having tabled detailed proposals.

In general there has been little progress on those ACD issues dealt with in the multilateral fora, i.e., at the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva, at the Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe (CCSBMDE) in Stockholm and at the Mutual Balanced Force Reduction (MBFR) Talks in Vienna. Nevertheless, in selected areas, a certain amount of progress continues to be made. Last year's initiation of discussion at the CD on issues relating to the prevention of an arms race in space was an encouraging development. Moreover, these multilateral fora continue to fulfill the important function of enabling middle powers and smaller countries, both aligned and non-aligned, to register their views on matters affecting their security.

The decision to resume regular high-level meetings between the USA and the USSR represents an important milestone in the evolution of relations between East and West and should permit progress to be made on arms control and disarmament issues.

Where Canada Stands

Canada is a committed member of NATO and actively participates in formulating and implementing agreed Alliance