

respected in the United States. Acid rain and other environmental problems represent another area in which we are not satisfied with the progress made so far.

There is, however, a balance and tone in our broad relationship that is heartening. Both sides are aware of the points of friction, but there is a renewed commitment on both sides to better management of the relationship. I am extremely pleased with my regular contacts with Secretary Shultz. We have found that we can deal quickly and thoroughly with the issues before us.

Another abiding priority in Canada's foreign policy is the quest for international peace and security. Efforts to control and reduce nuclear weapons command our constant attention. It is a long struggle, with the highest stakes. I wish to acknowledge the useful work of the Committee in this area.

One cannot regard the present state of relations between East and West as a particularly positive one. However, there is every reason to regard 1983 as a crucial year in reviving the momentum of arms control and disarmament negotiations.

Within the last eighteen months, two sets of negotiations on nuclear weapons have begun, and there are now signs that the negotiating process is beginning to work. At the talks on intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) and at the talks on strategic nuclear weapons (START), both sides seem to be addressing the issues with a greater sense of urgency.

These negotiations are aimed at genuine, balanced reductions in nuclear arsenals. Canada fully supports this objective. We maintain close contact with the USA on the progress of the talks. And when I was in Geneva in February to address the Committee on Disarmament, I took the opportunity to be briefed by the Heads of both the USA and Soviet negotiating teams, in order to inform myself personally on the current state of those negotiations.

The vigorous pursuit of verifiable arms control and disarmament agreements is one vital dimension of Canada's security policy. It is reflected in the commitment of specific resources in my Department's 1983/84 budget in support of disarmament initiatives, including contributions to the objectives of the World Disarmament Campaign, and a substantial increase in the Disarmament Fund of the Department of External Affairs.