



obligations requires us to continue cooperative arrangements. But, while ending such cooperation would not violate the letter of our obligations, it would certainly deeply offend the spirit. I cannot understand a logic which says, on the one hand, that the world is so interdependent and dangerous that we must cooperate in arms control and disarmament, yet asserts, on the other, that Canada should eliminate interdependence and dismantle cooperative arrangements in our national defence.

Surely these activities are two sides of the same coin. Our capacity as a country, and as an alliance, to conduct effective arms control negotiations with the Soviet Union and its allies rests on a confidence in our own strength and security, which is in turn based on shared values and true partnership.

It is in these terms that Canada approaches national defence and arms control: not as two solitudes, but as priorities which share a common logic and a similar purpose. Within tight budgetary confines and following a long and sorry period of neglect, we are beginning the slow process of rebuilding our military capability. Not so we may fight wars, but so that we can do our part to ensure that we never have to fight one again.

And to the same end, we are energetically pursuing arms control measures in the various international fora where Canada has a seat at the table. Canada also has a keen interest in the progress of those negotiations at which we are not directly represented, the talks between Washington and Moscow on nuclear and space arms. Both privately and in public, the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and I have each maintained a frank and useful dialogue with our American counterparts. The Soviets too have been kept fully informed of our concerns. These efforts will continue. While we are not the custodians of these weapons, we are the custodians of the aspirations of Canadians and of our children's future.

The time is ripe for progress. The United States is blessed with a strong, vigorous and popular president who has rebuilt

America's strength to the point where significant and mutually beneficial arms control agreements are both possible and desirable. The Soviet leadership, for its part, has shown unprecedented willingness to discard the posturing of the past and put forward serious proposals.

For too many years, arms control posturing has been little more than a cynical element in a campaign to sow dissension within our alliance, to score propaganda points in the battle for Western opinion. It is essential that arms control proposals be practical and responsive to the security concerns of both sides. For too long, the inevitable imperfections of particular proposals have served as an excuse to block progress on all.

Ambassador for Disarmament Delivers Canadian Statement to UN First Committee

Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament, Mr. Douglas Roche, made a major address to the United Nations First Committee on October 16, outlining Canada's approach to arms control and disarmament and to the agenda of the Committee, which deals mainly with arms control and international security questions. Following is an excerpt from that statement.

"Last weekend the United States and the Soviet Union brought an historic disarmament agreement tantalizingly close to achievement. Since then, both superpowers have informed the world that they will persist in this effort and build on the progress achieved at Reykjavik. The negotiators have already resumed their meetings in Geneva.

These are the highly significant developments that have produced a renewed atmosphere of hope as the First Committee begins its deliberations. For, as Prime Minister Brian Mulroney told the Canadian Parliament, the elements are in place for an ongoing civilized dialogue at Geneva and, hopefully, one which will result in

As Minister of National Defence, I can assure you that those who are responsible for the security of Canada judge agreed and reliable measures of arms control and disarmament together with our defence efforts to be fundamental to the security of the nation and the mutual security of all. I trust that, for your part, you agree that we have the same goals — and that it is the appropriate balance between defensive measures and arms control and disarmament measures that offers our best hope for a future in which freedom, security and prosperity prevail.

Thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to many more like it in the future."

General Secretary Gorbachev coming to the United States as agreed upon. The Prime Minister added:

'There are stumbling blocks on both sides. That is what negotiations are all about, sitting down with open minds, knowing the objections on both sides and trying to effect an honourable compromise.'

The Canadian Government hopes that people of goodwill will achieve a substantive accord, which could be signed at an early summit. Arms control, however, is a fragile process. Its environment must be protected. It is therefore doubly important that all actions be resisted which might be seen as weakening or unravelling the existing international framework on which East-West relations and arms control are built. Compliance with existing agreements is essential.

It is a reality of our time that the USA and the USSR will determine the major aspects of any international framework for global security. But security is everyone's business. All of us have a stake in international security and all of