

- prevention of an arms race in outer space; and
- the building of confidence sufficient to facilitate the reduction of military forces in Europe and elsewhere.

Without the knowledge that one's partners in an arms control agreement are actually honouring their obligations, the whole purpose of the agreement and, by extension, the arms control process itself, is called into disrepute. Verification is not an end in itself. Verification enhances the confidence of the parties. In so doing, it creates a sense of predictability. And predictability is one of the most important outcomes of effective arms control.

For my own part, I have concentrated on developing channels of communication with leaders from both East and West, to facilitate an exchange of ideas and to convey Canadian concerns and practical suggestions. Last month, I wrote to General Secretary Gorbachev outlining Canadian views and priorities with respect to arms control and disarmament. I have, of course, been in frequent contact with President Reagan on a range of international issues. I was pleased to participate at the meeting which he hosted last week in New York of summit heads of government to discuss the forthcoming Geneva summit.

It has been six years since the leaders of the USA and USSR have met. That is far too long in a world where super-power tensions cannot be left unattended. It would be preferable to regularize East-West summitry to have the leaders of the USA and USSR meet, perhaps annually to discuss problems and areas of common concern.