

"I urge them strongly to maintain the pressure at all times...the pressure of honourable people working for the pursuit of peace is the strongest assurance that a democracy is healthy."

The Government is serious when it says that it cares about the opinions of the Canadian public. Its commitment to dialogue is nowhere more evident than in the tabling of the Green Paper -- the first public review of Canada's international relations. Mr. Clark has said of the review process and Canada's future foreign policy that:

"...it should not be the exclusive preserve of bureaucrats and parliamentarians, but reflect the opinions and convictions of the Canadian public at large."

The Green Paper on Canada's International Relations was prepared precisely to aid the public review on the future directions of Canada's international relations. Few (if any) countries in the world have ever invited such open and extensive public participation in the foreign policy process.

On June 12 Parliament approved the creation of a Special Joint Committee of the House and Senate to discuss the Green Paper. The Committee will submit an interim report dealing with the United States' Strategic Defence Initiative and trade with the U.S. no later than August 23, and a final report no later than May 31, 1986. In preparing its reports the Committee will be seeking the views of Canadians across the country. Public input will be a fundamental and vital component of the review process. As Mr. Clark said in the foreword to the Green Paper:

"I encourage all Canadians with an interest in the future of their country and the contributions Canada can make to a safer, more prosperous and humane world to come to the Parliamentary hearings which will take place across the country and to make their views known."

There are several other ways in which the Government actively seeks and assists communication with the public on arms control and disarmament issues.

As Ambassador for Disarmament, I reconstituted the Consultative Group on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs. The Consultative Group is made up of more than 50 representatives from non-governmental organizations, universities and interested individuals who gather regularly to discuss and tender advice to the Government on arms control and disarmament questions.