



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

# communiqué

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
RECEIVES THE WARSAW PACT DECLARATION

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, received the Ambassador of Czechoslovakia, His Excellency Vincent Buzek, on January 21, 1983. Acting on behalf of all Warsaw Pact countries, the Czechoslovak Ambassador officially presented the text of the Prague Declaration containing a proposal directed to member countries of the NATO Alliance by Warsaw Treaty member states to conclude an agreement on "the mutual non-use of military force and on the maintenance of relations of peace."

Mr. MacEachen assured the Czechoslovak Ambassador that the proposal will be given serious consideration. Canada has already accepted the commitment not to be the first to use force under the United Nations Charter as a member of that organization. Moreover, as Prime Minister Trudeau pointed out in his speech at the Second United Nations Special Session on Disarmament last June, "The Charter lays down that there shall be no first use of force, any force." In signing the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Canada, the United States and all European States except Albania made a similar commitment where Europe is concerned.

Mr. MacEachen observed that it may be useful from time to time to reaffirm obligations which have been assumed in the past, provided such statements are not treated as a substitute for balanced verifiable agreements on arms control and disarmament, including current efforts to reach agreement on the reduction of conventional forces in Europe. Canada will therefore consider this proposal seriously and discuss it with its NATO allies. The reference in the proposal to the renunciation of the first use of conventional weapons appears to be a step in the right direction. It is important because NATO is concerned

over Soviet and Eastern European superiority in conventional strength. The proposal also includes components related to arms control and confidence building measures which will receive careful and serious study. Mr. MacEachen gave the assurance that any aspect of these proposals which would lead to progress toward concrete and verifiable arms control and disarmament agreements will receive full Canadian support.