



# communiqué

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## STATEMENT ON SHULTZ/SHEVARDNADZE MEETING AND INF AGREEMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today warmly welcomed the historic agreement achieved this week in Washington which will result in the global elimination of all Soviet and American intermediate-range (INF) missiles. This is a significant milestone as it will eliminate an entire class of nuclear missiles and be the first accord that actually reduces the number of nuclear weapons in the world. In welcoming the agreement, Mr. Clark underlined that the successful conclusion of the INF negotiations has been the result of Western proposals dating back to the original zero option of 1981, and the strength and solidarity of the Western Alliance in pursuing these proposals. He said it also justifies our careful, step-by-step approach to the arms control and disarmament process.

Mr. Clark also expressed his satisfaction with the decision to resume negotiations on nuclear testing. A comprehensive nuclear test ban has long been a Canadian priority and these new negotiations, the first in eight years are a positive first step.

We are encouraged by the commitment of both the USA and the USSR to increase their efforts toward achieving agreements on strategic arms reductions and space/defence issues. A strategic arms accord based on the agreed goal of 50% reductions in existing arsenals would be a remarkable achievement, and one of great importance to Canada in particular, given our unique geographic position between the superpowers.

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As Secretary of State Shultz has stated "It is an important beginning." Canada shares the hope that the progress achieved in the area of intermediate-range missiles does not end there, and is translated into other areas of arms control, specifically strategic nuclear systems, chemical weapons and conventional forces.

We welcome the decision to convene a summit meeting before the end of the year. We hope it will provide additional stimulus to the arms control process and further improvement in East-West relations.