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# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

Canada's Role in the International  
Year of Peace

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## CANADA'S ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

In opening this series of talks on Canada's role in the International Year of Peace, I wish to thank the government of the Soviet Union for receiving me. I have come to Moscow to follow the initiative of Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Hon. Joe Clark, who himself visited the Soviet Union last year, affirming the importance of inter-governmental visits. In Moscow, Mr. Clark stated:

"... even where differences exist, consensus can be built upon a foundation of mutual understanding and areas of common purpose."

This theme was also emphasized during the very welcome visit to Ottawa of the Soviet Foreign Minister, Edouard Shevardnadze. Thus, our two countries are moving forward in contributing to increased political confidence between East and West based on dialogue, restraint and exchanges. In this way we are contributing to enlarged understanding that authentic security is multi-dimensional and indivisible; security today is measured in political, economic and cultural terms as well as military.

All of us recognize that the journey to full understanding of the planet as common ground is a long one. That is undoubtedly the reason why the United Nations, in its consensus resolution a few days ago thanking governments and the public for participating in the 1986 International Year of

Peace, asked everyone "to persevere" in applying the principles of the U.N. Charter so that humanity could reach the threshold of the 21st century in the full enjoyment of a stable and lasting peace.

It is in that spirit that I have come to your country. I want to tell you how we in Canada view the broad agenda of the International Year of Peace. As you know, the IYP is essentially a challenge to governments and peoples of the world to focus more clearly on the multi-dimensional nature of peace -- conflict resolution, economic and social development, human rights, elimination of racial discrimination, as well as the traditional issues of arms control and disarmament. All these themes must be advanced as the world continues to evolve into a global community with increasingly close relationships among all peoples.

Peace can no longer be defined as the absence of war, though the avoidance of nuclear war must be the chief priority.

Peace requires more than a reduction of arms, though disarmament measures are essential.

Peace demands the attaining of true human security so that people everywhere can live free of the threat of war, free of violations of their human rights, free to develop their own lives to attain economic and social progress.

At the centre of this multi-dimensional work is the need to improve East-West relations, which have been characterized by forty years of tension and escalating armaments. The improvement of relations and reductions in nuclear armaments are both required and would be mutually-reinforcing contributions to security. Arms control is essential to all progress. But, as we know, the field of arms control is itself highly complex, technical and, above all, political. It is easy to advocate ridding the world of nuclear weapons -- numerous proposals have been put forward since the Baruch Plan of 1946 -- but it has been very difficult to find a way of negotiating them down to acceptable levels on the basis of equality.

A significant step was taken in this direction at the first Summit meeting, in 1985, between General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan. In their joint declaration, the leaders agreed that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought." As well, they identified several areas in which the USA and USSR had a common interest in progress. These include:

- accelerated work at the nuclear and space talks in Geneva;
  
- the further enhancing of the Non-Proliferation Treaty;

- accelerated global efforts to conclude an effective and verifiable convention banning chemical weapons;
  
- agreement to work for positive results at the Vienna MBFR Talks and the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe.

The second Gorbachev-Reagan Summit in Reykjavik raised the hopes of the world that, through further dialogue, agreement could be reached on truly radical reductions in nuclear weapons. 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 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 honorable 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.

Establishing and sustaining political dialogue at the highest level in order to build on the common ground between East and West is, then, a step of fundamental importance. The successful conclusion of the Stockholm Conference, which will bring new openness and predictability to the conduct of military affairs in Europe, is a further advance.

This approach has been a consistent element of Canadian foreign policy. At the conclusion of his visits to many world capitals in 1983, Former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau suggested ten principles of a common bond between East and West:

- Both sides agree that a nuclear war cannot be won.
- Both sides agree that a nuclear war must never be fought.
- Both sides wish to be free of the risk of accidental war or of surprise attack.

- Both sides recognize the dangers inherent in destabilizing weapons.
  
- Both sides understand the need for improved techniques of crisis management.
  
- Both sides are conscious of the awesome consequences of being the first to use force against the other.
  
- Both sides have an interest in increasing security while reducing the cost.
  
- Both sides have an interest in avoiding the spread of nuclear weapons to other countries, so-called horizontal proliferation.
  
- Both sides have come to a guarded recognition of each other's legitimate security interests.
  
- Both sides realize that their security strategies cannot be based on the assumed political or economic collapse of the other side.

These principles, reflected in the Gorbachev-Reagan 1985 Summit statement, broaden the perspectives of East-West relations and stimulate greater international effort in the search for a durable peace.

In his first speech immediately after assuming office in September 1984, Prime Minister Mulroney reiterated the commitment of the Canadian government to work effectively within the world's multilateral forums to reduce tensions, alleviate conflict and create the conditions for a lasting peace. He said:

"There can be no let up in our efforts to reduce the threat of war. No matter how frustrating or difficult, negotiations must be pursued ... The exercise of political will is nowhere more important than on this issue on whose outcome the lives of our children and humanity depend."

And he added:

"No matter how much we may accomplish here in Canada, I will have failed in my most cherished ambition if under my leadership Canada has not helped reduce the threat of war and enhance the promise of peace."

External Affairs Minister Clark carried the Government's commitment into the global community when he stated in an address to the 39th General Assembly of the United Nations:

"Canada, for its part, is determined to continue to play a leading role in the search for peace and disarmament. We believe the nuclear build-up threatens the life of every Canadian, and the existence of human society. Countries like our



own must use influence to reverse that build-up and reduce the danger of destruction. That will be a constant, consistent, dominant priority of Canadian foreign policy."

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I would like now to turn to a discussion of Canada's policies in the field of international peace and security. As Prime Minister Mulroney has stated, there are four essential components: the pursuit of arms control and disarmament, the defence effort, peacekeeping and conflict resolution. Each must be pursued and the world should recognize that arms control is "a component of, not a substitute for, a healthy national security policy."

In the field of arms control and disarmament, the Canadian Government has enuciated six specific objectives. They are:

- negotiated radical reductions in nuclear forces and the enhancement of strategic stability;
- maintenance and strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime;
- negotiation of a global chemical weapons ban;

- support for a comprehensive test ban treaty;
- 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.

What is Canada's practical contribution to arms control? Here, there are three aspects:

- We want to encourage compliance with existing treaties. To deviate from full compliance with arms control and disarmament agreements is to threaten the basic credibility and viability of arms control. Canada has reiterated on a number of occasions the need for compliance by all parties with existing treaties to include the ABM treaty and SALT agreements. We believe nothing should be done to undercut their authority.
- Our second practical contribution is in the field of verification. This is an area where Canada is making a practical

contribution to resolving arms control negotiating problems. Through its Verification Research Unit, Canada is focussing on practical, technical problems

-- linked to verification that must be resolved as a prerequisite to incorporating binding verification provisions in arms control treaties. Our verification research programme has continued its work on key issues relating to a limitation of nuclear testing leading to a comprehensive test ban, a global chemical weapons convention, and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. At the United Nations, we were pleased that the First Committee unanimously approved for the second year in a row, a Canadian-initiated resolution emphasizing the critical role of verification in the arms control and disarmament process.

-- Finally, building confidence between East and West. We welcome the enhancement of the political dialogue between East and West and the expansion of people-to-people contacts can help to foster East-West understanding. Canada and the Soviet Union, for example,

recently signed a two-year programme of academic, cultural and scientific exchanges for the period 1987-88. We are also fully

-- supportive of the CSCE process and are currently participating in the Vienna Follow-Up Meeting that convened in November to review the whole spectrum of CSCE activity. If the CSCE process has known certain frustrations and failures, it has still been a most valuable forum for the essential dialogue that must be continued between East, West and the Neutral and Non-Aligned. But to have success in the CSCE, it is essential that each signatory country respect their previous engagements, engagements made by all the signatories to the Helsinki Final Act. I will speak more of this in a subsequent talk.

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I would now turn briefly to mention the other components of Canada's security policy.

Canada is a member of the NATO alliance, a defensive alliance of like-minded nations sharing common values and aspirations. We are members out of choice, not circumstances, and have sought to strengthen our commitment to NATO through the enhancement of our military presence in Europe. NATO, above all, is a defensive alliance. As the NATO Foreign Ministers said in Portugal last year:

"We do not seek military superiority for ourselves. None of our weapons will ever be used except in response to attack."

Canada and all nations have an interest in ensuring that small regional conflicts be stopped before they flame into dangerous confrontations involving the major powers.

Canadian participation in peacekeeping operations has sought to help to prevent the outbreak or spread of hostilities, so that underlying political problems can be settled through negotiation. In fact, Canada stresses the important link between peacekeeping and peacemaking efforts, in the difficult process of international conflict resolution. After all, peacekeeping is not an end in itself. Overall, between 1947 and 1985, some 77,000 Canadian Forces personnel have taken part in 15 United Nations peacekeeping operations and three truce supervisory missions. At present, Canada is involved in five UN-sponsored activities -- in Korea, India, Pakistan, Cyprus and the Middle East. Last year, we also agreed to join the

multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in the Sinai Peninsula as our contribution to the reinforcement of the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel.

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Finally, I would like to address briefly the special effort that Canada has made to mark the International Year of Peace. The Canadian Government undertook a major programme which included the following elements:

- A contribution of \$10,000 to the International Year of Peace Voluntary Trust Fund of the United Nations. This contribution was part of Canada's overall contribution of \$100,000 to the objectives of the United Nations World Disarmament Campaign. During the first three years of the World Campaign, Canada donated \$300,000, which was more than 20 percent of the total convertible pledges received. Canada attended the successful regional conference in Tblisi, Georgian SSR, and would like to commend the Government of the USSR and the U.N. Department of Disarmament Affairs for the organization of this event.

- A second component of our programme was a cross-Canada tour that I made last spring. I visited every province in Canada to discuss the International Year of Peace and the question of the relationship between disarmament and development with members of our non-governmental Consultative Group on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs and with interested Canadians at public meetings.
  
- We have published a selection of essays written by distinguished Canadians and dealing with the broad themes of the International Year of Peace from individual perspectives. This commemorative book was prepared in order to encourage reflection on the basic requirements of peace in the contemporary world.
  
- An essay competition for Canadians dealing with the theme "What is peace and what can I do to achieve it" and a poster competition on the International Year of Peace was held. The eight winners of the competition were awarded a trip to the United Nations in New York. A commemorative stamp was issued

by Canada Post Corporation and released on September 16, the International Year of Peace, as part of a special ceremony on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. A commemorative IYP gold coin was issued by the Royal Canadian Mint. Additionally, many projects helping to build greater understanding of the issues in the public were funded by the Government.

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This activity shows that Canada -- as well as other nations -- is not indifferent or impotent in building a safer world. There is still much to do in the international arena and Canada pledges, once again, to do everything in our power to strengthen the international machinery of peace.

This world-wide activity must reinforce the efforts of the superpowers to find bilateral agreements. Although 86 percent of the people of the world do not live in the United States or the Soviet Union, we are all caught up in the fall-out from this relationship of the two great superpowers who together possess more than 95 percent of the more than 50,000 nuclear weapons in the world. Their relationship, as is obvious, affects everyone. It is in the interests of everyone



to help improve the entire East-West relationship and, as the U.N. Secretary General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, said in his acceptance speech for his second term, to "demand of the Governments of States which possess nuclear weapons that they reflect upon their responsibility to their peoples and to the planet itself and pursue policies that will lead to the elimination of these weapons."

The Reykjavik Summit revealed that the portents are more encouraging now than they have been for many years. The ideals of the International Year of Peace must continue to drive us forward. Results won't come without effort and the stakes are high. The task is clearly for everyone. Canada, for one, will continue to work in every way possible toward our common goal of a world of confidence, security, trust and peace.