

STATEMENT DISCOURS

SECRETARY
OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS.

SECRÉTAIRE
D'ÉTAT AUX
AFFAIRES
EXTÉRIEURES.



85/62

Statement by the
Right Honourable Joe Clark,
Secretary of State for
External Affairs,
on the occasion of
Disarmament Week

October 24, 1985

As we observe United Nations Disarmament Week beginning on October 24, we find in the world environment reason for renewed hope. In Geneva, the United States and the Soviet Union have resumed their bilateral negotiations in order to deal with nuclear and space arms. Next month, President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachov will come together for the first time in a Summit meeting. The Third Review Conference on the Non-Proliferation Treaty which aims at preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons came to a successful conclusion in September with consensus on a Final Document. This welcome development demonstrated the positive results that can come out of the multilateral negotiating process when there is a powerful incentive to co-operate.

These are all positive developments. Yet one cannot deny that serious obstacles to progress remain. The road to higher levels of global security at lower levels of armaments - both nuclear and conventional - will not be an easy one. The Canadian Government, for its part, has sought to give greater impulse to the negotiating process in an effort to enhance international peace and security. We have developed our own Programme of Action for the remaining half of the Second Disarmament Decade. While we shall be concentrating our diplomatic and technical resources on the development of practical solutions to specific negotiating problems particularly those relating to the verification of agreements, we shall, parallel with these efforts, intensify the use of our channels of communication at the political level in support of positive and serious negotiations.

Our objective in this respect is clear. We want to eliminate the danger of war in the nuclear age. Our aim is no less than to help ensure the survival of mankind.

Within Canada, the Government will seek to develop an informed public opinion through means such as the Disarmament Fund. Through the Fund, which totals over \$700,000.00 this year, we are encouraging non-governmental organizations and concerned individuals to discuss, research and disseminate information in this area. The Consultative Group on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs, which meets regularly with the Ambassador for Disarmament, Mr. Douglas Roche, and with government officials, has become an important vehicle for the exchange of views. It will meet for the second time this year from October 31 to November 2, in Ottawa. The Government's Disarmament Bulletin will also serve an important information role in Canada.

At the international level, Canada will again this year support the objectives of the United Nations' World Disarmament Campaign through a contribution of \$100,000.00. Canada has made two previous contributions of \$100,000.00 each.

As we approach the International Year of Peace in 1986, which is being proclaimed by the United Nations on October 24, the Government has renewed its commitment to the pursuit of progress in the arms control and disarmament field. This will continue to be a matter of the highest priority for the Canadian Government.