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STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

Remarks by Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon,
Parliamentary Secretary
to the Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
to Representatives
of the Great Peace Journey

Canada

OTTAWA, CANADA

October 28, 1986

The Great Peace Journey

A delegation representing the Great Peace Journey visited Ottawa on October 28, 1986. Initiated by Mrs. Inga Thorsson, former Swedish Ambassador for Disarmament, the group is undertaking a tour of world capitals to solicit responses to five questions which address a number of issues in the areas of defence and disarmament.

Stage one of the Journey, consisting of visits to European capitals, has been completed. Stage two, including a visit to North America, is currently underway. During Stage three the group will visit the USA and USSR.

While visiting Ottawa, the Great Peace Journey met with Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon, the Parliamentary Secretary for External Affairs, and senior officials from the Department.

Remarks by Parliamentary Secretary of External Affairs to
the Great Peace Journey.

Introduction

It is with great pleasure that I welcome the representatives of the Great Peace Journey to Ottawa. I have heard with interest of the Journey's travels to other capitals in search of common ground among nations upon which to build a peaceful and secure future. I have also learned of the considerable efforts of the Canadian organizers in developing a useful programme for our guests. It is indeed this sort of grassroots support which has made the global movement for peace such a powerful force in the international arena.

The Canadian Government has examined carefully the questions you have posed. In order to convey an accurate portrayal of Canadian policy on these important subjects, we have found it necessary to expand our responses beyond the simple "yes" or "no" answers which you requested. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, shares the view that in order to achieve real understanding on such crucial and extremely complex issues, "yes" or "no" answers are not appropriate in that they may create a false impression of our position.

At the same time, I want to underline that my statements and responses to your questions do not constitute a complete or comprehensive statement of Canadian policy on arms control and disarmament. Your questions do, however, provide a basis for discussion of at least some aspects of Canadian policy.

I should point out that arms control and disarmament is one of the elements that make up our security policy. The others are defence and deterrence, and peacekeeping and the peaceful resolution of disputes. You might also find it useful to know that in October 1985 the Prime Minister listed six priority Canadian objectives in the area of arms control and disarmament. These 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.

With this background, let us turn to your questions.

Question 1: A) Are you willing to work for national legislation which guarantees that your country's defence forces, including "military advisors", do not leave your territory for military purposes (other than in United Nations peacekeeping forces)?

B) - if all other members of the United Nations undertake to do the same?

Answer: A) As a nation with a small population, a vast land mass and an extensive coastline, Canada historically has depended for its security on defensive alliances with friendly and like-minded countries. In our view, such alliances contribute to the maintenance of international stability in a manner fully consistent with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. The existence and cohesiveness of NATO, for example, has been indispensable in the deterrence of a global war in the past 40 years. Enacting legislation to forbid sending military forces abroad would violate our commitment to NATO and would, in effect, preclude the formation of defensive alliances. We do not believe that stability and international security will be enhanced by a situation in which smaller countries would be vulnerable individually to coercion from stronger states.

B) The Canadian position would be that should all members of the UN, including Canada's NATO allies and members of the Warsaw Pact, make demonstrable and verifiable commitments to undertake such actions, Canada would do the same.

Question 2: A) Are you willing to take steps to ensure that the development, possession, storage and employment of mass-destruction weapons including nuclear weapons, which threaten to destroy the very conditions necessary for life on this earth, are forbidden in your country?

B) - if all other members of the United Nations undertake to do the same?

Answer: A) You should be aware first of all that Canada does not possess nuclear weapons, nor are such weapons stationed on Canadian territory. However, Canada participates fully in NATO, a defence alliance which deploys a nuclear deterrent. Canada has contributed to the modernization of the NATO deterrent, in the face of a continuous Soviet modernization of its strategic nuclear forces, by agreeing to the testing in Canada of unarmed U.S. air-launched cruise missiles (ALCMs). The Government decided to allow the United States to test the guidance system of ALCMs in Canada because it was concerned that this particular missile was an important element in the modernization of the Western deterrent which had become increasingly obsolescent due to improvements in Soviet offensive and defensive nuclear systems.

B) The Canadian position would be that should all members of the UN, including Canada's NATO allies and members of the Warsaw Pact, make demonstrable and verifiable commitments to undertake such actions, Canada would do the same.

Question 3: A) Are you willing to take steps to prevent your country from allowing the supply of military equipment and weapons technology to other countries?

B) - if all other members of the United Nations undertake to do the same?

Answer: A) Most smaller countries do not maintain comprehensive and extensive defence industrial capabilities capable of providing the full range of equipment essential to meet their legitimate defence needs. Canada, for one, must procure many items of military equipment overseas in order to maintain a modern and adequate defence capability. A complete ban on the sale of defence equipment and technology would hinder the ability of smaller countries to maintain effective security capabilities. Furthermore, it could well encourage many countries to devote a disproportionate

amount of their wealth to maintaining economically non-viable defence industries in order to assure themselves of a supply of essential defence equipment.

Canada produces military equipment in order to meet our defence needs and our obligations under NATO and NORAD. Few companies produce defence equipment exclusively and few products of the Canadian defence sector are classed as offensive military equipment. Exports to the USA and Europe are necessary to reduce overall cost and to keep our industry innovative and competitive.

Canada closely controls the export of military goods and technology to:

1. countries which pose a threat to Canada and its allies;
2. countries involved in or under imminent threat of hostilities; and
3. countries under United Nations Security Council sanctions; or
4. countries whose governments have a persistent record of serious violations of the human rights of their citizens, unless it can be demonstrated that there is no reasonable risk that the goods might be used against the civilian population.

By the limitations which it places on certain destinations for exports of Canadian origin military goods, this policy supports the Government's commitment to arms control and disarmament. Through the priority accorded to meeting our requirements for national security and our alliance obligations for collective defence, this policy contributes to the balance of strategic deterrence, which is a cornerstone of arms control in an East/West context.

B) The Canadian position would be that should all members of the UN, including Canada's NATO allies and members of the Warsaw Pact, make demonstrable and verifiable commitments to undertake such actions. Canada would do the same.

Question 4: Are you willing to work for a distribution of the earth's resources so that the fundamental necessities of human life, such as clean water, food, elementary health care and schooling, are available to all people throughout the world?

Answer: Canada is committed to promoting development and growth in the world economy so that the basic human needs of all people can be met. Our aid program is focussed primarily on the poorest countries and peoples. Close to 80% of our bilateral assistance goes to low income countries. Canada has accepted the United Nations target of 0.15% of GDP for the least developed countries and 1985 disbursements were close to this figure. Our bilateral aid program concentrates on three sectors: agriculture, human resource development and energy. Canada is also committed to placing a high priority on the vital role of women in development, as they are the key agents of development in areas such as health care, nutrition, food supply and education. Canada's ODA volume is 0.5% of GNP and will total more than \$2.2 billion this year.

Our trade and economic policies are important as well to the growth prospects of the Third World. Canada actively participates in discussions in international economic forums in an effort to promote international economic cooperation and to improve the growth prospects of all nations. Canada has been active in its support for the longer-term recovery of developing countries. We have pushed for the strengthening of the roles of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the early consideration of a general capital increase for the World Bank and a substantial replenishment of close to \$12 billion for the International Development Association. Canada believes the new Multilateral Trade Negotiation Round offers an opportunity for greater integration of LDCs into the world trading system.

Question 5: Will you work to ensure that any conflicts, in which your country may be involved in the future, will be settled by peaceful means of the kind specified in Article 33 of the United Nations Charter, and not by the use of threat of force?

Answer: Canada supports fully the Charter of the United Nations and the role of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and stability. The peaceful resolution of conflict is one of the primary elements of Canada's security policy. Canada was a pioneer of the concept of peacekeeping and over 70,000 Canadians have served in United Nations peacekeeping operations. In the event of any conflict or dispute with other countries, Canada would make every attempt to achieve a peaceful resolution, and would only resort to the use or threat of force if necessary to defend vital Canadian interests or to meet our commitments to the defence of our allies.