



communiqué

No.:
No.: 245

December 8, 1987.

INF AGREEMENT HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT CONFIRMING
VALIDITY OF ALLIANCE ARMS CONTROL AND
DISARMAMENT POLICY

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Rt. Honourable Joe Clark, today expressed his great pleasure at the signing of the historic agreement between the USA and the USSR to eliminate all ground-based Soviet and American intermediate-range nuclear missiles globally. Mr. Clark said: "This agreement is an unprecedented breakthrough in efforts to reverse the nuclear arms spiral and engage in actual reductions in nuclear arms rather than just their limitation. The INF accord will result in the complete elimination of an entire category of nuclear missiles and is therefore the first nuclear disarmament agreement in modern history".

The terms of the INF treaty, particularly its verification provisions, are significant and extremely important. For the first time, the Soviet Union has agreed to the establishment of a permanent monitoring site on Soviet territory manned by USA personnel. The associated inspection regime is a rigorous one involving, in the beginning, up to 20 challenge inspections per year. The concept of a prior exchange of agreed data has also been accepted and satisfactorily implemented. Finally, the need for asymmetrical reductions to common levels has been recognized, as the USSR will eliminate 4 times more warheads than the USA. All of these measures have been Western priorities in arms control for many years and have important implications for other arms control and disarmament negotiations.

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"The outcome of the INF negotiations has reaffirmed the validity of NATO's December, 1979, "double-track" decision. It underlines the important role Alliance unity and solidarity have played throughout. The difficult decisions taken over the past 8 years on the issue of INF have had a direct bearing on the successful outcome of these negotiations. Canada is satisfied with the results and looks forward with anticipation to similarly successful conclusions to other arms control negotiations currently underway".