

## Interdependence

One of the principles underlying the North Atlantic Alliance is that no state, however powerful, can guarantee its security and welfare in the nuclear age by national action alone. To all its members - large, medium and small - NATO brought, in the face of a serious Soviet military challenge, a measure of security and purpose, and today endows us with a sense of mutual confidence and responsibility for the negotiations which lie ahead which no member, by itself, could have attained.

By the same token, the very interdependence of a grouping of states of varying sizes and responsibilities means that the action of one can affect, and often vitally, the security and welfare of all. Interdependence requires above all mutual confidence. It must exist to a very high degree, and it is of the utmost importance that it be maintained. In the Canadian view the most effective way of preserving our faith and trust in each other is through frequent and frank consultations.

## Political Consultations

The Canadian Government has consistently emphasized the great significance of political consultation within the Alliance and we are encouraged by the considerable progress which has been achieved. It is now accepted practice that member states should not, without advance consultation, adopt firm policies or make major political pronouncements on matters which significantly affect the Alliance or any of its members.

We are confident that member states are prepared to live up to this recommendation and there is, we believe, an increasing sense of responsibility and obligation regarding consultation. During the last few months, consultations have been particularly useful on the Berlin issue and during the Geneva conferences.

There have also been fruitful and intimate exchanges on a variety of problems arising outside of the NATO area but capable of possible repercussions on the interest of the Alliance or its members. We are entering into this field in the knowledge that the purpose of such consultations is not the formulation of common NATO policies in parts of the world outside the NATO area or the widening of the commitments of the individual members. Rather, the object is to discuss questions of common concern so that NATO governments in the formulation of their national policies will fully understand each other's points of view and preoccupations. I am sure this approach is shared by all governments represented around this table.