

unity. At the same time we are seeking to diversify our own international relations and in this effort the newly emerging Europe will be an area of particular significance for us. As our new relationships with Europe evolve we have every reason to believe that Canadian membership in NATO in common with eight of the nine EEC members will provide opportunities for co-operation in areas of mutual concern.

NATO's capacity of fulfil these useful functions in the period ahead will depend of course on the maintenance of a sense of common purpose and the willingness of its members to find ways to overcome periodic internal differences such as those now being experienced in the field of Atlantic relations. These differences should not be minimized but I am satisfied that the vital interests which the Allies continue to share are of such importance to their individual and collective well-being that, as on similar occasions in the past, the present difficulties can and will be resolved.

In conclusion, I would like to mention the work of the North Atlantic Assembly. This body, although independent of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as such constitutes an unofficial link between the Alliance and the parliamentarians of member countries. The Assembly, including its Canadian members of parliament, contributes significantly to a better understanding of the vital issues that confront us today.