

Suharto, Mr. Trudeau said that the treaty was a victory for the rule of law and the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes. He said that Canada regarded the treaty as a basis for global equity and the development of a new international economic order (*Globe and Mail*, January 12).

Declaration Against Torture

The Canadian government made a unilateral declaration of its continued compliance with the UN "Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment." Canada solemnly declared its intention to continue to act in conformity with the Declaration, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly of December 9, 1975. The Declaration does not include legally binding obligations for states. An External Affairs press release December 17 said that Canada intends, in addition, to continue to work within the UN Commission on Human Rights for the early completion of the drafting of an international convention on torture. Canada believes it is important to have the legal instruments necessary for the effective suppression of the practice of torture in the world.

NATO

Defence Planning Committee

The Defence Planning Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization met in ministerial session in Brussels on December 1 and 2. At this meeting, defence ministers endorsed and reiterated previous declarations, including the NATO "two-track" policy. "This programme rests equally on the imperatives of maintaining strong deterrence through defence modernization and the need to achieve, through constructive negotiation, agreements on militarily significant, equitable and verifiable arms reductions. . . . The Allies expressed their collective determination both to maintain adequate military strength and political solidarity and to seek more constructive East-West relations whenever Soviet behaviour makes this possible," the final communiqué from the meeting said. In the communiqué, concern was expressed about the "continuing numerical superiority of Soviet conventional forces and the growing applications of advanced technologies.

The Ministers also reaffirmed their conviction that "over and above the importance of reinforcements, the continuing and undiminished presence of the US and Canadian forces in Europe is essential to NATO's defence and deterrence strategy and serves the interests of all the members of the Alliance.

Foreign Ministers Meet

NATO foreign ministers met in Brussels December 9 and 10. At the close of the semi-annual meeting, the ministers issued a final communiqué which said:

The Allies will maintain a firm, realistic and constructive attitude towards the Soviet Union on the basis of mutual acceptance of the principles of restraint and responsibility in the conduct of international affairs. . . . The Allies look to the Soviet

leadership for tangible evidence that it shares their readiness to act in this spirit. . . . The Allies are open to all opportunities for dialogue, will welcome any positive move to reduce tension, and desire, if Soviet attitudes allow, to cooperate in rebuilding international trust.

External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen told reporters that the general view at the meeting was "that we ought to be quite firm in our attitudes, preparations and posture, but open to gestures, alive to opportunities that could lead to more positive relations" with the Soviet Union (*Globe and Mail*, December 11). The foreign ministers also reaffirmed their decision to begin to deploy US Cruise and Pershing-II nuclear missiles in Europe next year unless the Soviet Union and the US reach an agreement to reduce medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

Mr. MacEachen was asked in the House of Commons by Paul McRae (Lib, Thunder Bay-Atikokan) on January 20 what efforts Canada was making to persuade the US government to get down to serious bargaining before the deployment of the 108 Pershing-II missiles in West Germany. He answered that it was his wish and the attitude of the NATO ministers that the deployment would not take place. He said, "That is why the NATO Alliance has offered to enter into negotiations with the Soviet Union, in order to ensure that the Pershing-II would not be deployed and in order to remove the SS-20," the Soviet missiles pointed at Western Europe.

Warsaw Pact Declaration

The Czechoslovak Ambassador to Canada officially presented to External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen the text of the *Prague Declaration* on January 21. It contained a proposal directed to member countries of the NATO Alliance by Warsaw Treaty member states to conclude an agreement on "the mutual non-use of military force and on the maintenance of relations of peace." Mr. MacEachen assured the Ambassador that the proposal would be given serious consideration. He observed that it may be useful from time to time to reaffirm obligations which have been assumed in the past, provided such statements are not treated as a substitute for balanced verifiable agreements on arms control and disarmament. Included in the text was a renunciation of the first use of conventional weapons, and components related to arms control and confidence building measures which Mr. MacEachen said would receive serious and careful study. He "gave the assurance that any aspect of these proposals which would lead to progress toward concrete and verifiable arms control and disarmament agreements will receive full Canadian support" (External Affairs press release, January 21). (See POLICY — DEFENCE.)

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Proposed Ban on Seal Products

The European Economic Community (EEC) did not agree to ban the importation of seal products from Canada on December 3. The vote came after intense lobbying in Europe by Canadian government representatives in sup-