

military organization, and the prospect that a united Germany will wish to be a member of NATO, the creation of a new, broader European framework of this kind could serve to alleviate Soviet security concerns even if the West insists on keeping the NATO integrated defence structure intact within that framework until satisfactory new European security arrangements are in place.

Serious obstacles exist in the way of such a new European security system. Negotiations will be complex; progress is bound to be slow. A great deal will depend on the development of a high level of trust and mutual confidence among the former adversaries. A key factor will be a sense of general satisfaction that agreements on arms reduction and border issues are being fully respected and, consequently, that no member of the two existing alliances is perceived as posing a threat to any other. However, until then, the West must maintain, through NATO, enough conventional military power, especially well-equipped, mobile forces, which could be moved quickly, under the UN or other multilateral auspices, to areas of tension and potential conflict. The maintenance of such a capacity would be compatible with large reductions in nuclear and conventional forces by the Soviet Union and the West.

#### Maintaining Transatlantic Ties

The ongoing process of reducing arms, restoring ties of cooperation and understanding between East and West and ending the division of Europe inevitably raise questions for the future about continued direct US and Canadian involvement in Europe, beginning with the presence of US and Canadian forces in Europe. We believe that North American involvement in Europe, in forms appropriate to the changing conditions, is essential for the maintenance of peace and security and that it is also in the best interests of all European countries, both East and West. The West must be careful to avoid any steps that could weaken existing transatlantic ties (such as the dissolution or weakening of NATO, or the premature withdrawal of US and Canadian troops from Europe) and it must seek to put in place, as soon as possible, solid foundations for North American participation in all European political and security arrangements. We believe the CSCE offers the logical basis for commencing that process and that the West should,