

into account, as you yourself have implied, the numerical superiority of the forces of the other side.

Senator BROOKS: Would it be considered the main one?

Hon. Mr. MARTIN: I am not a military man, but I would be inclined to think that in terms of modern warfare it could not be regarded as anything else.

Senator CROLL: Mr. Minister, the most recent announcement that East Germany is to sign a mutual defence pact with Poland and Czechoslovakia is, of course, in my view, directed in one way. I gathered from your earlier statement that you thought there was an easing of pressures and an opportunity to reach some mutual agreement between NATO and the Warsaw Pact countries. Would not this announcement indicate a hardening rather than an easing of the situation, or what is the implication of this agreement?

Hon. Mr. MARTIN: I don't know that I fully understand the question. I don't know, first of all, of a mutual defence pact proposed between West Germany and—

Senator CROLL: Between East Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia. They announced a few days ago that they had reached agreement on a mutual defence against what I considered could only be West Germany.

Hon. Mr. MARTIN: I am not aware of this although the Warsaw Pact continues to exist. At first I thought you were thinking of the proposal that Poland and Czechoslovakia has made to West Germany with regard to denuclearization and the application of a mutual safeguard system. Perhaps I have not understood your question correctly. First of all, I am not aware of such a pact, but I am aware that the Warsaw Pact continues to exist, that the Soviet Union has called for an abandonment of both organizations, that there has been a lot of discussion from time to time over collective negotiations and confrontation between Warsaw pact countries and NATO countries. I would hope we might strive to work so that both of these organizations will no longer be necessary. In the process of that development I think we must envisage a disengagement in Europe that will be mutual—it cannot be one-sided. I think very considerable progress in this regard is being made. But I must concede that while there has been some considerable improvement in the climate, there has yet been no solution offered to any of the major political problems that divide Europe. There still is a divided Germany and there still is a divided Berlin. I believe, however, that if the nations of the world can conclude, as I think they are likely to conclude in the foreseeable period, an agreement to restrict the number of nuclear nations in the world, through what is called a non-proliferation agreement, this will go a long way towards bringing that accommodation between the Warsaw Pact powers and the NATO powers. It will go a long way towards removing Germany as the centre of the European problem and it will go a long way towards encouraging German re-unification.

The United States and the Soviet Union, I think, are on the verge of an agreement with regard to non-proliferation. We have been party to some of the negotiations on one side. While we are not fully in accord with all aspects of the interim arrangement, we believe that it is vital—more vital than anything else—to conclude such an agreement thereby giving to the Soviet Union and to nations both east and west some assurance about the German position. This in turn will help Germany to re-unification which in turn will help to bring about greater peace and stability in Europe.

Senator BROOKS: In that case would it not depend on the mutual reduction of forces of the two sides?

Hon. Mr. MARTIN: Absolutely. It is all very well for people to say to Canada that we should get out of NATO and pull our forces out. These people forget what the consequences of that would be for other countries like Scandinavia and