

President Bush's proposal was important in its own right; it also was key to helping unblock the short-range nuclear forces (SNF) impasse because it opens the possibility for negotiations on short-range missiles immediately after implementation of a conventional agreement is underway. That could be in the next year or two.

At Canada's suggestion, NATO unanimously endorsed the proposal and agreed to prepare it for formal presentation in Vienna, within 60 to 90 days.

NATO experts responding to Canadian verification initiative

The Summit endorsed President Bush's call for an open skies regime, a proposal Canada had urged upon President Bush some time ago.

It could turn out to be a significant confidence-building measure and play an important role in the verification regime for the Conventional Arms Agreement we hope to reach in the near future.

While we are meeting here, experts from all NATO countries are responding to another Canadian initiative made some months ago. They are meeting in Canada at Collège militaire royal de St-Jean to examine how a conventional agreement could be properly and persuasively verified.

On a non-military and perhaps less dramatic note, the Declaration issued today contains a decision to establish a scholarship fund to enable participants from East and West alike to study democratic institutions. I was very pleased to note that my colleagues welcomed this Canadian proposal, put forward earlier by Ambassador Smith.

Forty years ago, Canada fought hard and successfully to have the Atlantic Treaty recognize the intrinsic value of political and economic, as well as military, security for this Alliance.

At this Summit, we reaffirmed our common purpose, and charted a course for achieving a stable structure of peace and stability. The fact that the SNF issue has been successfully resolved and given the right place in the Alliance's

comprehensive concept is a particularly happy event.

It clears the way for a systematic and reasonable approach to all arms control negotiations the Alliance will undertake in coming years. It will enable us to conduct those negotiations with the assurance that our security is sound as we progress toward our goal of stability at reduced levels of armaments.

In particular, it sets out clearly when negotiations on short-range nuclear weapons can start.

When taken together with the proposals made by President Bush yesterday, this could mean that within a matter of a few years the two super-powers could find themselves with no more than 275,000 troops each in Europe outside the Soviet Union, radically reduced levels of conventional armaments and on the way to cutting SNF to below 88 launchers each.

When one considers that the Soviet Union now has approximately 1,800 such missiles at the ready, one can understand what an achievement it would be simply to bring them down to parity with NATO.

Once we have actually begun those programs of weapon destruction and troop withdrawal, we will be well on the road to a safer and more stable world. We hope it will also be one in which we shall have established significant cooperation with the East bloc on global issues such as the environment. These are some of the objectives toward which we have taken important steps these last two days.

The Alliance has come out of this Summit in robust health. We had some differences; we resolved them to everyone's satisfaction. Every member is a winner because of that.

The Political Declaration lays out a road map for our future relations with Eastern Europe. The approach is clear — we want Mr. Gorbachev's reforms to succeed. We have offered him an opportunity for early agreement on a Conventional Arms Agreement of historic proportions; we have agreed to SNF negotiations; we have challenged

Mr. Gorbachev to match our willingness to open up our territory to aerial inspection.

This was a Summit of celebration and substance. I return to Canada reinforced in my convictions about the importance of the Alliance to Canada and of Canada's role in it." □

NATO a Cornerstone of Canadian Foreign Policy

The following is the statement by the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, in the House of Commons on the occasion of NATO's 40th Anniversary, on April 4, 1989.

"I rise today to pay tribute to the 40th anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization which has been a cornerstone of Canadian foreign policy for successive Canadian governments. What we celebrate is not only 40 years of uninterrupted peace in Europe, but also the values which brought us together then and which still unite us today.

When he signed the treaty on behalf of Canada, the Right Honourable Lester Pearson stated:

'This treaty, though born out of fear and frustration, must, however, lead to positive social, economic and political achievements which will extend beyond the time of emergency which gave it birth, or the geographic area which it now includes.'

We must keep in mind the situation prevailing at that time: fully armed Soviet troops were still stationed in Europe; the West Berlin blockade was on; a Communist takeover had just crushed Czechoslovakia's nascent democracy; and the nations of Western Europe, barely through with the war, were openly threatened by a similar fate. There is a striking contrast with the prosperous times we are experiencing today, and NATO has been and still is an essential instrument of such progress.