

for national military activity. This demonstration of the absence of feared threats can be made through greater openness in all of our activities, not least in the military sphere.

The foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Alliance recently affirmed in Halifax their objective to strengthen stability and security in the whole of Europe through increased openness and the establishment of a verifiable, comprehensive and stable balance of conventional forces at lower levels. Recognizing the need for bold new steps, they set up a task force on how further to pursue their objectives for conventional arms control in Europe.

The results of this stage of the Stockholm conference will be fundamental in determining whether a new openness can be imparted to the conduct of military activity on the territory of Europe. The adoption, as this conference adjourns, of a substantial set of confidence- and security-building measures and their satisfactory implementation cannot fail to nourish in Europe a climate of confidence that ought to be strong enough to pave the way for more extensive measures of military restraint and reduction.

In this regard, we have noted Mr. Gorbachev's recent expression of Soviet willingness to seek conventional arms reductions from the Atlantic to the Urals. But public statements are not enough. We now await an equally constructive response from the Soviet Union and other members of the Warsaw Pact to the detailed proposals that we have tabled aimed at enhancing stability and security.

The Soviet Union has recently stated that it is no less interested in effective verification than are the Western states and it has recognized the potential usefulness of on-site inspection as a means of verification. We await here a confirmation of this interest through positive and specific suggestions for co-operative and reciprocal verification measures accessible to all the participating states.

Verification measures have both political and military value as a means of ensuring compliance. Since military potentials on each side in Europe are very high, any major lack of compliance would require a considerable