

addressed first. Areas where technology threatens to overtake politics are being given priority. And the unnecessarily large and undesirably unstable balance in conventional forces is finally being dealt with head-on.

Canada warmly welcomes the significant progress made in recent days by the United States and the Soviet Union on a variety of fundamental issues.

In particular, movement towards the abandonment of the linkage between research on strategic defence and progress on strategic nuclear arms control is a very positive development.

So too is the progress registered on eliminating chemical weapons, including the exchange of data on stocks. We strongly welcome President Bush's offer to reduce stockpiles to less than twenty percent of current levels while efforts continue in Geneva to negotiate a Chemical Weapons Convention.

Canada also endorses the US and Soviet agreement to explore an Open Skies arrangement between NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Such an arrangement would be daring in its simplicity, yet pathbreaking in its consequences; an agreement that the aircraft of each member of both alliances could enter the airspace of the other alliance subject only to basic air safety regulations. This would increase the assurance of every member that military activities were not becoming preparations for surprise attack.

From the beginning, we have urged the United States to move forward with this visionary proposal, and to make it an alliance-to-alliance arrangement.

An Open Skies agreement would be a compelling symbol of the new East-West relationship. It would build confidence and serve as a useful vehicle for the verification of other agreements, including an eventual agreement on conventional forces in Europe.

We are prepared to go beyond moral support. On Sunday, after consultations among NATO and the Warsaw Pact, Prime Minister Mulroney announced Canada's offer to host an inter-alliance

conference, as early as November, in order to explore the possibilities of a formal agreement on Open Skies.

It is of fundamental importance to deepen and widen East-West relations. A stable structure of peace cannot endure if its only component is concurrence on arms control, no matter how far-reaching that agreement is.

Enduring peace requires understanding, a sense of shared problems and a shared stake in the future. Above all, it demands a sense on each side that the survival of the other is in its own best interest. What is required is agreement not only on the avoidance of war but also on the advantages of peace....

It is for this reason that Canada has strongly supported expanding the field of activity of NATO; that is, pursuing more energetically the Alliance's mandate for political and social dialogue. In this connection, during NATO's most recent summit, a Canadian proposal was adopted to assist young political leaders in learning how to make democracy work. More initiatives of this type are required.

Cooperation is now the new realism

The progress in East-West relations owes much to the refreshing breezes of change sweeping Eastern Europe and the USSR. Ideology is giving way to compromise. Governments are recognizing that the old ways do not work; that new strategies are required; that lessons may be learned abroad; and that cooperation in the economic and social spheres does not constitute an acknowledgement of defeat but is rather a recipe for success.

Canada's support for the changes now underway in the East is unequivocal. There must be no turning back and that requires imagination in the West on how to strengthen this remarkable process of reform and liberalization....

Totalitarianism is fading not because it is regarded by its subjects as wrong; it is being discredited because it doesn't work. It doesn't deliver.

Democracy is not only a set of values; it is also a statement that there is no monopoly on truth, that different groups at different times may have different solutions to different problems. It is the politics of pragmatism. It works. It delivers.

A free market is not simply a particular means of ordering the economy. It is a framework which enables the individual to act on his or her own merits, efforts and capacities. It conforms to human nature. It is the economics of pragmatism. It works. It delivers.

It is for this reason that Canada welcomes the tide of democratization and the shift to the marketplace evident around the globe. On this trend rests the hope for social stability. And such stability is a firm foundation for international peace....

The Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan; the settlements in Angola and Namibia; the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war; and the progress evident in Central America; all are testimony to a new willingness to compromise. They are also testimony to the crucial role played by this organization and its Secretary-General in the search for global order.

Much more needs to be done. There is a difference between the absence of war and the presence of peace. The international community must continue to do everything in its power to ensure that the processes now underway in these troubled regions move from truce to settlement, from stand-off to stand-down....

As some regional conflicts have been brought under control, the unique and important UN instrument of peacekeeping has been brought to bear. At the same time, welcome and pragmatic suggestions are being made to improve operations and funding. Canada supports the Secretary-General's call to provide peacekeeping with a rational and secure funding base. Peacekeeping has become too important to the mission of this Organization to be subject to charity or whim.

One of the central tasks of this Organization has been to weave a new fabric of international law. This it has done assiduously, often without fanfare. The foun-