

The Press: On this question of bilateral relations - I gather that the emphasis is going to be now more on bilateral arrangements rather than anything collective?

Mr. Sharp: Well, shall I put it this way that we will be looking particularly at our bilateral relationships. We have relations through NATO and we have relations through the United Nations. These continue to be important parts of our relationships, but we do not believe that we have been devoting enough time to the cultivation of our bilateral relations with many countries.

The Press: Is that in all fields, Mr. Sharp, political, economic and cultural?

Mr. Sharp: Yes. It reflects too in the shifting of our balance towards the Francophone countries. It is another aspect of this change which relates particularly of course to Africa where you have many of the new emerging Francophone countries.

The Press: European countries as well?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, our relationships in Eastern Europe are part of our general review of our posture with respect to the relations between the communist world and the free world. The possibilities of détente, the question of the mutual de-escalation of forces and so on. Of course these matters are subject to constant study and therefore the difference between the day to day problems and the fundamental review must be kept in mind.

The Press: Is the fundamental review going to be done in Ottawa in a university sense?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, there is one aspect of this review that I think is worth emphasizing and that is it is not just an internal review by the civil servants within the Department. They will be a vital part; they will provide the continuity and their contribution to this is absolutely vital. But the review will be a review at the Government level, I hope at the Parliamentary level and I hope that the public will be brought in to participate because the object of