

not only the increasing importance to Canada of the enlarged EEC but also the growing reciprocal interest of the countries of the Community in Canada.

The ratification of the Berlin Agreement and of the Warsaw and Moscow treaties concluded by West Germany, Poland and the USSR were highlights of the political year in Europe. However, of perhaps greater potential significance for Canada was the opening in November of talks in Helsinki between ambassadors of 34 nations - those of Europe, with Canada and the United States - with a view to preparing for a full-scale Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The participants in the first comprehensive negotiations in European security in a generation intend to address themselves to the basic causes of division and tension in Europe. The Canadian Government in particular is seeking to have the Conference recognize the general principle that people should be able to move with greater freedom between countries and the related propositions that members of families should not remain unwillingly separated and that citizens of different countries should be able to move freely.

Détente as a principal objective would require a meaningful reduction of the present confrontation of forces in Central Europe. For this reason Canada welcomed the opening of talks in Vienna on Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions in early January. The