

but the rewards would be commensurate with the effort required to reach agreement. It goes without saying that Canada is no more prepared than any of its allies to concede tangible security for unsubstantial promises. Yet we are encouraging our NATO colleagues to move forward on this issue, taking advantage of real opportunities in the search for a mutually acceptable agreement.

Canada was not a party to the four-power talks on Berlin but we participated actively in the alliance consultations that have accompanied them. We welcome the agreement on the first stage which emerged after months of hard bargaining. It is our hope that the second stage of the negotiations - between the appropriate German authorities - will be completed soon. Until then, Canada, in concert with its allies, does not think that the time has come to shift from bilateral to multilateral discussions on the possibility of a conference on European security. We are not dragging our feet by insisting on a satisfactory conclusion to the Berlin talks as a prerequisite for a security conference; we are simply recognizing that failure to achieve East-West agreement on Berlin would indicate that the climate was not ripe for the resolution of wider European problems. Once a Berlin agreement has been achieved, however, we see considerable value to be derived from a conference on European security, provided such a meeting was properly prepared and had good prospects of success. Any conference of this kind should involve not only all the members of NATO and the Warsaw Pact but interested neutral countries in Europe. While awaiting a Berlin agreement, the alliance must pursue its studies of the procedural and substantive problems of a conference against the day when a conference is a reality....

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