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CANADA

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The New European Architecture

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Following the historic changes that took place in Europe in 1989, the continent is now engaged in a process of redefining its political, economic and security framework. This process will take years and the final results are not completely predictable because of the many factors in play. Canada must adjust to these changes since they greatly affect its interests and role on the continent.

The manner in which German unification is achieved, as well as the policies of a united Germany towards questions of institutional change, will be fundamental in determining the form of the new European architecture.

Global security and prosperity require that the new Europe maintain strong, institutionalized transatlantic links. At the same time, it is important to avoid processes that contribute to an isolationist mentality in the U.S.S.R., which remains an important factor in European security.

Canada will participate in European institution building to ensure that its political, economic, security and humanitarian interests on the continent will be advanced effectively in the Europe of the future. Canada believes the new European architecture should be built upon the solid foundations provided by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), and an enhanced relationship with the European Community (EC).

The stable, collective defence provided by the NATO alliance will be particularly important in easing Europe through the transitional period ahead. Canada supports an appropriate military capability for NATO that is based on reduced levels of conventional and nuclear forces. At the same time, Canada believes that NATO doctrine and strategy must be modernized to reflect the new realities which have made friends out of adversaries and ended the Cold War.

Canada has always advocated the strengthening of NATO's political dimension. Although the aspirations of our European partners to develop the EC process of political integration must be respected, a pragmatic and flexible approach should ensure a large degree of consultation on key international security questions. NATO's dialogue with the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe and the U.S.S.R. will be an important part of this process.

Canada attaches great importance to the CSCE as the main forum for future European architecture in the security (e.g., verification and confidence-building, conflict resolution), humanitarian, political and economic areas. The CSCE should be institutionalized and build upon the work of existing organizations such as the Council of Europe, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Moreover, the CSCE should receive political direction from the highest levels, as well as benefit from regular meetings of parliamentarians and even the private sector (as at the Bonn CSCE Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe).

One of the most valuable attributes of the CSCE is that it ensures that Canada, the United States and the U.S.S.R. maintain an active role in European affairs across a broad range of interests.

The EC is playing a leading role in the development of the new European architecture. Well-advanced on its timetable for economic and monetary union by the end of 1992, the EC has renewed its momentum towards political union, initiatives which are of considerable importance to the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe.