

Canada Weekly

Ottawa
Canada

Volume 12, No. 26
June 27, 1984

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NATO Council ministers' statement on East-West relations

Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, led the Canadian delegation to the spring ministerial meeting of the North Atlantic Council, held in Washington May 29-31.

The meeting marked the thirty-fifth anniversary of the North Atlantic alliance.

The opening session was addressed by the host minister, United States Secretary of State George P. Shultz, and by the outgoing Secretary-General of NATO, Joseph Luns, who will be succeeded by former British Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington.

External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson of France also addressed the Council for the last time in his capacity as honorary president.

The ministers took note of the appraisal called for at their last meeting with a view to achieving a more constructive East-West dialogue and reaffirmed their continued intention to work for genuine *détente* through building up more contacts

with the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe.

At the close of the meeting, the ministers issued the "Washington Statement on East-West Relations" from which the following excerpts are reprinted:

- "At their meeting in December 1983 the ministers of foreign affairs of the member countries of the alliance, on the initiative of the Foreign Minister of Belgium, decided that the Council should undertake an appraisal of East-West relations with a view to achieving a more constructive East-West dialogue.
- "The appraisal has confirmed the continuing validity of the balanced approach contained in the Harmel Report of 1967. To ensure the security of members of the alliance, the most appropriate long-term policies are the maintenance of adequate military strength and political solidarity and, on that basis, the pursuit of a more stable relationship between the countries of East and West



US Secretary of State George Schultz (right) greets Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan J. MacEachen. Mr. MacEachen led the Canadian delegation to the spring meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Washington, May 29-31.



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