

Here we get to the core of the current debate: the unsteady relations that have divided East and West over the years and the absence of real political dialogue that could ease tensions. There had been a time in the Seventies when *détente* brought the promise of such dialogue. Regular consultations at the most senior levels of political leadership appeared to offer the way to developing understanding, mutual respect and a willingness to search for ways of avoiding crises. As *détente* became divisible and subject to doubt, the prospect it offered of building confidence in the intentions of each side faded.

In today's atmosphere of suspicion and distrust, how can we help in restoring the confidence which might move things forward? At Guelph, Prime Minister Trudeau referred to a "strategy of political confidence-building" which would involve "steps that reduce tensions caused by uncertainty about objectives, or caused by fear of the consequences of failure; steps that mitigate hostility and promote a modicum of mutual respect; steps that build an authentic confidence in man's ability to survive on this planet". He particularly had in mind regular high-level dialogue based on openness regarding intentions, mutual respect, reciprocal acknowledgement of legitimate security needs, a determined approach to crisis management and incentives for flexibility. The objective would be to establish a better communications network between the two superpowers and the East and West generally.

The burden of this strategy rests with the political leadership in each country who alone, perhaps, can show the flexibility needed to explore new policy directions. Prime Minister Trudeau has already begun the high-level consultations he has advocated and will soon be personally meeting other leaders.

It is our hope that political leaders will take up the challenge and that their efforts can be translated quickly into practical terms in the various negotiating fora. If there is to be genuine dialogue in these negotiations, it has to be based on a viable international security policy. The foundation of such a policy must include the principles of reciprocity, transparency, balance and confidence.

We find the lack of confidence particularly disturbing in the superpower negotiations on intermediate-range nuclear forces in Geneva, which have reached a critical state. In no other forum is a true dialogue as urgently needed as in the INF talks. If they are to have a chance at success, the parties must accept as their fundamental objective increased mutual security rather than unilateral advantage. It is of the utmost importance that the two sides persevere in the bargaining process and come to grips with central issues. We strongly support a negotiated solution that will make deployment of any intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe unnecessary. At the same time, in the absence of concrete results in the INF negotiations, we are convinced that there is no alternative to deployment of the West's intermediate-range missiles. The urgency lies in making this alternative unnecessary.

As evidence of the West's determination to see a reduction in the level of nuclear weapons in Europe, I would draw the Committee's attention to the decision of the Western alliance's defence ministers last week at Montebello, Quebec, to withdraw, unilaterally, 1 400 tactical nuclear warheads from the number in Western Europe during the next several years. This will bring to 2 400 the total number of warheads which will have been unilaterally removed by the West since 1979.

A great deal of hope is riding on the Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and