

which Canada is a member. After consultation in NATO, President Regan proposed last November that the United States would not deploy the *572 Pershing II* and *Cruise* missiles to Europe if the Soviet Union would remove and dismantle the *SS20*, *SS4* and *SS5* missiles it has aimed at Western Europe. This bold proposal was warmly welcomed by Western European governments and by Canada.

President Reagan said that the United States would be ready to resume talks on strategic arms this spring. He proposed to change the acronym from SALT, for strategic arms limitation talks, to START, for strategic arms reduction talks, indicating that he wanted a real reduction, not just a limitation or ceiling. When Secretary of State Alexander Haig met Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko in Geneva last week, it was initially intended that they set a date for the resumption of the SALT or START talks. However, because of the Polish situation, the United States was not prepared at this time to set a date for the commencement of the negotiations.

I think I have indicated Canada's acute interest in negotiations for the limitation and reduction of nuclear weapons by the United States and the Soviet Union. Canadian views are constantly being conveyed to the United States bilaterally and through NATO.

Conventional
forces in
Europe

Mutual and Balanced Force Resolutions (MBFR) — Because Canada has 5 000 armed forces personnel stationed in Central Europe, a Canadian delegation takes part in the talks on reduction of forces between NATO and the Warsaw Pact which have been going on in Vienna since 1973. I visited these talks in 1974, when I was Ambassador to NATO, and again last year. Unfortunately, although some progress has been made in the negotiations, no agreement has so far been possible because the Soviet Union has persistently maintained that the land forces of the two sides are equal, whereas the NATO nations are convinced that the Warsaw Pact has a superiority of about 150 000 men in the reduction area. Unless there is agreement on the basis data about existing force levels, it would be impossible to monitor compliance with any agreed reductions and residual ceilings.

The importance of these MBFR talks should not be underestimated for either alliance, as this military confrontation is said to soak up half of world military expenditures, or about \$250 billion a year. The MBRF negotiations are the only ongoing effort anywhere in the world to achieve actual reductions in forces in a region of military confrontation.

The Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), signed in Helsinki in June 1975, was intended to record the improvement of relations, or *détente*, in a variety of fields, from human contacts in trade to confidence-building measures for security.

From the hearings of a subcommittee of this standing committee in the summer and

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