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World View

CANADA

Dept. of Foreign Affairs
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NATO's 50th Anniversary: Canada and the Challenges of Reshaping NATO

When the leaders of the 19 member countries of NATO convene in Washington from April 23 to 25 to commemorate its 50th anniversary, there will be ample reason to celebrate the Alliance's achievements. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization has not only managed to deter any military threat against its members since 1949, but it has become the strongest and most effective military alliance ever. Further, NATO has proven to be an invaluable forum for the development of strong political, economic, scientific and cultural ties between its members.

But despite its past successes, NATO is facing questions about its future. In the absence of the Soviet threat that once glued its members together, will the Alliance be able to redefine its role and adapt to the new challenges and realities of the post-Cold War era?

As one of the founding members of the Alliance, Canada is ready to take on the challenges of the new NATO. The



Government of Canada has repeatedly expressed its unequivocal support for the Organization and its willingness to contribute in a positive manner to the redefinition of NATO's role and mandate.

Canada's attitude is based on an overriding belief: that the Alliance was, and remains, the tangible proof that stability comes

from solidarity between nations on both sides of the Atlantic. This is as true today as it was during the darkest days of the Cold War.

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NATO countries' leaders at the Madrid Summit in 1997



photo: NATO


NATO is one of the major forums where Canada exerts international influence and participates in the building of a more peaceful, prosperous world. This third issue of **Canada World View** explains Canada's historical role in NATO and examines future prospects for the Atlantic Alliance, which this year celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Also in our pages, a look at the ever-expanding Canada-Mexico partnership, the coming into force of the Landmines Convention and several other topics of interest.

We hope you will enjoy this third issue of **Canada World View**.

The Editors

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