

heart of Europe.

He said there is an apprehension that the more powerful Warsaw Pact forces could be tempted to gamble on a conventionally-armed attack, to "throw down the challenge to Western leaders either of accepting defeat, or of being the first to resort to the use of nuclear weapons in our own defence."

He said the simple but expensive way to correct the imbalance would be for the West to increase its conventional forces, but this should be a last resort. "The far more sensible approach would be for both sides to reduce their conventional forces to mutually agreed levels." He said the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction (MBFR) talks in Vienna pursue this goal and though there is sign of movement the pace is too slow. He said he has explored, with his colleagues in the Alliance, ways to give the MBFR talks fresh political impetus.

He said another negotiating forum will open in Stockholm in January, the "Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe." He said he has proposed that the merits of high-level political representation there be seriously considered.

A fourth element, he said, flows from a strategy of suffocation he first proposed to the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament in 1978. The strategy would address arms control measures for new technologies.

"I have in mind a ban on the testing and deployment of those anti-satellite systems designed to operate at high altitude. Such weapons could attack the global communications which are of critical importance for crisis management. Destruction of the other side's command and control network, at a time of crisis, would leave him blind and mute at the very moment when stability demands awareness and response, not the panic reaction of 'launch on warning.'" He said there is still time for the superpowers to agree to forego these systems.

He is also concerned that new intercontinental strategic weapons may be so highly mobile as to be virtually invisible, and it might consequently be impossible for either side, or for international bodies, to verify arms control agreements.

He believes the prospects for arms control

would be enhanced if methods of verification were taken into account while new strategic systems are still in the developmental stage.

The Prime Minister said he would introduce, in the appropriate forum, "papers calling for an international agreement to (a) ban the testing and deployment of high-altitude anti-satellite systems; (b) restrict excessive mobility of ICBMs; and (c) require that future strategic weapons systems be fully verifiable by national technical means."

He said the several elements offered represent a truly comprehensive approach to the crisis of peace and security.

"It is essential . . . that this interlocking programme, this safety net for our very survival, be guided by political leadership at the highest level. That our own consultations, and talks with others, be quickened by a jolt of political energy. That we work to identify steadily increasing areas of mutual interest, starting from our common humanity and our common fate on this earth."

The Prime Minister said that in addition to the consultations underway with the United States, he has initiated consultations with the Soviet Union through a personal emissary.

"I am encouraged by this momentum, and heartened by the response. But I am also well aware that critics of my initiative have difficulty in grasping this step-by-step approach. Some would prefer the passionate embrace of an unattainable ideal. Others are paralyzed by the complexities of the issues in play. I believe that peace must be waged steadily, with caution and with realism. We must work with due respect for the fragility of political trust, for the importance of building carefully, for the need to search out common ground on which to stand. . . .

"Peace and security are not cold abstractions. Their purpose is to preserve the future of mankind, the growth of the human spirit, and the patrimony of our planet.

"The choice we face is clear and present. We can without effort abandon our fate to the mindless drift toward nuclear war. Or we can gather our strength, working in good company to turn aside the forces bearing down on us, on our children, on this earth."