

do so in the future, Canada is vitally concerned about the success of this conference as part of the CSCE. As my minister pointed out at the recent meeting of the North Atlantic Council held in Halifax: "A long time ago, Canadians judged that our common civilization made the security of Europe indistinguishable from that of North America."

Throughout the years, Canada has striven to ensure this security by a solid commitment to collective defence and by a strong engagement to reduce levels of tension and confrontation. One of our priority objectives in the field of arms control and disarmament is to build confidence sufficient to facilitate the reduction of military forces in Europe and elsewhere.

This confidence-building enterprise in which we are engaged is a unique negotiation. It is also a many faceted challenge. It has a political/military dimension; but it also has a humanitarian one. If this conference succeeds it could genuinely enhance the security and co-operation we seek through the CSCE. If it fails, it could impede the attainment of this objective. We should ensure that the Vienna follow-up meeting, in a wider context, is able to assess a set of confidence- and security-building measures that will constitute a real milestone towards the achievement of greater security, and is able to judge what further efforts will be necessary to continue this work.

From the first week at Stockholm the countries of the North Atlantic Alliance have called for concrete measures that would clarify the non-hostile intentions of the participating states. The treaty establishing the Western Alliance binds its members not to use force except in self-defence, a commitment we have reaffirmed on countless occasions.

Recently, General Secretary Gorbachev affirmed the defensive orientation of Soviet military doctrine as well.

The military policies of the neutral and non-aligned states participating in the CSCE are of a purely defensive character. The problem is therefore not a lack of expression of peaceful intentions, but rather how to demonstrate credibly to each other that security concerns for legitimate defence are the sole guidelines