

Europe in Transition

the Canadian Vision

'The drawing board for the architecture of a new Europe' is how the Rt Hon. Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, describes the potential of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe... 'an instrument which will supplement deterrence with reassurance'.

The Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney impressed the Canadian viewpoint at November's summit of leaders of the CSCE in Paris, emphasising the need for a new enlightened approach to human rights, economic and environmental issues to consolidate the political and military changes. 'This summit ends the cold war... firmly, formally and we hope, forever. And this summit launches a pan-European transatlantic structure that stands for liberty, democracy, justice and opportunity'.

Mr Clark encapsulated the Canadian view in a speech at Humber College, Toronto.

JOE CLARK,
Secretary of State
for External Affairs



One of Canada's primary interests is to help ensure that Europe becomes a positive force for change at home and abroad.

Two world wars this century have taught Canadians that a Europe at peace with itself is a Europe at peace with the world. Security in Canada has no meaning without security in Europe.

Our economic prosperity depends upon a stability in the world. Threats to that stability are threats to our prosperity.

More directly, as a country dependent on trade for 30% of our GNP, the unifying market of Western Europe is vital for jobs and prosperity in Canada, and the vast and untapped markets of Eastern Europe constitute a long-term opportunity of potentially immense proportions.

Politically, the values which have triumphed in Europe are our values too. We rejoice in their ascendancy and also take comfort in the fact that democracies are inherently more peaceful than the totalitarian alternative. The construction of durable democracies there is not only a moral quest; it is also a security imperative.

Finally Canadian interests in the new Europe relate not only to what occurs there but also to what is occurring elsewhere. For decades, our

preoccupation with a brittle peace in Europe has hindered our ability to deal with mounting global problems – the threat to global environment, the crises of international development and debt, the evils of the international drug trade and the proliferation of terror and weapons of mass destruction.

With Europe at peace with itself, we can turn together to a planet in need of urgent action.

While our interests in Europe remain strong, the means by which we pursue them must change radically to reflect the new security framework now in evolution, the growing power and unity of Western Europe, and the particular advantages and assets of Canada.

The primary Canadian bridge to Europe has been our contribution to the North Atlantic Alliance. The military contribution is bound to decline as a product of the reduction in East-West tensions. A firm foundation must be built for a structure of lasting security at the lowest possible level of military forces. It is only natural for NATO, in these circumstances, to assume a more political role.

It is a change which Canada fully supports and which meets its interests.

There are other institutions whose role must be enhanced and transformed if they are to play a useful role in the elaboration of a new European system. And it is there that Canada must also focus its efforts.

Central among these is the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Its membership is comprehensive, encompassing the nations of Europe, North America and the Soviet Union. Its mandate extends across the board – to security, political and economic matters, as well as to human and social rights.

The principles embodied in its earlier accords provided the vision and the standards which helped inspire the brave democrats of Eastern Europe. The role of the CSCE must now be expanded so that it becomes the drawing board for the new European architecture. As a complement to NATO, the CSCE can become a true instrument of co-operative security, one which would supplement deterrence with re-assurance. And as the nature of European security expands beyond military balances to political stability and economic prosperity, there is a central role for the CSCE in the areas of human rights, economic co-operation and environmental action.

Canada believes that continuing political direction from the highest level is required on a regular and ongoing basis if the CSCE is to realize its full potential. Canada proposes that the CSCE should meet annually at the level of Foreign Ministers and bi-annually at the level of Heads of Government. This political body could serve as a beginning of a Council for European Co-operation, a future, permanent forum for dialogue on pan-European issues.

The CSCE should develop a forum to reflect the increasingly democratic character of its membership. Therefore, we also propose the establishment of a CSCE Assembly where parliamentary del-