

European group of states. These factors, especially when added to the others mentioned earlier, could lead the Soviet leaders to contemplate a compromise settlement in Europe which would take into account the basic interests of all concerned.

Continuing Role of NATO

Pending a long-term solution of East-West problems, the countries of Europe are likely to consider that their security interests are best served and their stability best maintained by continuing their respective alliances—NATO on one side, the Warsaw Pact on the other. The energies of NATO will no doubt be devoted to developing the twin concepts, deterrence and *détente*, in proportions appropriate to changing circumstances. Most of the current indicators point in the direction of increased emphasis on *détente*. There is now general acceptance among members of NATO that perpetuation of the *status quo* is unlikely to produce a satisfactory and durable solution to Europe's security problem. Changes within the Eastern bloc have increased the possibilities for initiatives which might open the way to such a solution. However, experience demonstrates that the confidence necessary if such initiatives are to be taken seriously is possible only if there is an absence of concern about immediate physical security on the part of the European states. This means maintaining appropriate military forces until a sufficient degree of security and stability is otherwise produced to make those forces unnecessary.

Progress toward a long-term solution will be the sum of the various individual and collective activities of all those concerned with European security, including the non-aligned countries as well as the members of both alliances. It is accepted in NATO that much useful work in this regard will be achieved through bilateral relations between individual NATO members and members of the Warsaw Pact. There is scope too for collective alliance initiatives to achieve agreement on specific issues—arms-control measures and balanced force reductions, for example. NATO has become increasingly effective as a forum for consultations on disarmament and arms-control questions, among other political items.

United States and Western Europe

Most of the European members of NATO, conscious of their continuing need for United States nuclear protection and of the contribution which NATO makes to their individual bilateral relations with the United States, continue to emphasize the alliance as a key element in their national