

That military contribution is bound to decline. It will not be a decline which we regret, because it will be a product of the long-sought reduction in East-West tensions which is the result of the new Soviet foreign policy, the dissolution of Soviet control over Eastern Europe and the unilateral and negotiated reductions in conventional and nuclear forces. At long last, we are moving from a partial and artificial peace to a comprehensive, more natural peace, a peace where intentions are becoming benign and capabilities are being reduced to the point where surprise attack is no longer possible.

This process and this reality can only be applauded. What has begun must continue and a firm foundation must be built for a structure of lasting security at the lowest possible level of military forces, conventional and nuclear. That will not come suddenly or easily, but it is now a realistic goal.

It is a seeming paradox that NATO's very success requires the Alliance to renew itself. But in fact, that is easy to understand. An organization whose primary role has been to defend against plausible aggression must revise its role when that aggression becomes less plausible. It is only natural in these circumstances for NATO to assume a more political role, a role which would reflect both the new European reality a declining military mission.

That is a change which Canada fully supports and which meets Canadian interests. But it is not enough to simply declare that NATO must become more political. NATO will only become a forum for increased dialogue if it is used for that purpose by all its members, European and North American. NATO cannot be declared more political; it must be made more political.

To a large extent, the future relevance of NATO will depend on the degree to which it adopts, reflects and strives for a broader definition of security. Security must become co-operative rather than competitive. The time for the zero-sum game is over. Even more than in the past, NATO must embrace security through arms control with as much vigour as it has pursued security through armament.

NATO must review urgently and comprehensively all aspects of its nuclear and conventional strategy. It makes little sense to retain nuclear weapons whose only target can be our new friends in Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany. It makes little sense to retain a military strategy which is based on a scenario of a surprise attack across a front which no longer exists and where surprise is no longer possible. And it makes little sense to continue to retain in Europe the largest peace-time deployment of military force in the history of the world.

This is not to deny the continuing requirement for prudence and military stability at this time of historic change. Twelve months does not invalidate the lessons of history. The possibility of instability is there and Soviet military capabilities remain substantial. Therefore, a strong military mandate for NATO continues to be valid and the North American commitment to Europe represented by the presence of Canadian and American troops there is crucial as we strive for strategic stability at significantly lower levels of military force.