

The purpose of balancing the various kinds of factors - short run and long run, political, economic, strategic and psychological - is to arrive at a policy which will best serve the interests of the people of Canada.

But the interests of the people of Canada cannot be considered in isolation from the interests of the peoples of the other North Atlantic democracies - nor can their interests be considered in isolation from ours.

The only course of realism today for the North Atlantic democracies is for each of them to consider problems arising out of their relations with one another as problems between friends and associates. This does not mean that each of us should do everything that any other member of the group says is in the interests of the whole association. It does, however, mean that each of us, before taking action in the political, economic or military field, must consider what the effect of its action will be on the total strength of the group as a whole - its total military, economic and moral strength.

Each of us must make these decisions, realizing that, though war is by no means inevitable, there is a risk that war may break out at any time. The extent of this risk is incalculable, but its existence cannot be denied. It is greater today probably than at any time since the war ended a short three years ago.

That, gentlemen, is a depressing statement to make. It is, however, based, I think, on a sober appreciation of the facts and the trends of today. You would not wish me to preach a doctrine of sweetness and light when I do not feel that way. Nor, on the other hand, do I feel that we need fall into despair and assume that nothing can be done to save the situation. Not at all. There is nothing inevitable in the relations between states; nothing fixed or frozen or permanent.

Living, however, as we will in the years ahead, in an atmosphere of international tension, punctuated by recurrent crises, we and our friends in the other Western democracies will need steady nerves and stout hearts. We will need to be unshaken in our determination to pursue a consistent, firm and unprovocative policy against any power or group of powers which threaten by direct or indirect means the world's peace. In the pursuit of such a policy lies our best hope for the future.