

is better than the British themselves had asked for in the case of industrial products, a little shorter in the case of agriculture. They have a series of other negotiations going on affecting certain industrial raw materials that are of interest to us. We're supporting them in trying to get some special provisions that will enable the British economy and their suppliers to avoid unnecessary disruption during this period.

Q. On our other European relations, are we any closer to a conference on European security, and do you think Canada's voice would be heard in such a conference?

A. It is now generally agreed that Canada and the United States would attend a European security conference. There was some doubt about this at the beginning, but now all the Eastern bloc countries have at one time or another said, of course, "We assume that Canada and the United States would be there". So I think our voice will be heard. As to when a conference would be held, I think real progress has been made towards this objective. When I think back to the prospects, say a year or more ago, they were much poorer than they are now. The big change came about with the accession to power of Willy Brandt in the government of West Germany. His "ostpolitik" opens prospects for a genuine détente. He's been pursuing his negotiations with the Soviet Union and with Poland, indeed has reached agreements, subject to ratification. The German government has made it very clear that they will not ratify these agreements until the problem of Berlin has been eliminated by some sort of agreement about access and about relations between the Federal German Republic and West Berlin and so on. In the NATO countries, generally we believe this is a wise policy, and therefore at the last meeting we said that progress towards a European security conference would depend especially upon the progress made in the settlement of the Berlin issue. So I believe we have made substantial progress, but we haven't yet achieved the basic conditions necessary to the success of a conference. We may, of course, in the next few months.

Q. Speaking of NATO, do you see any change in the foreseeable future in Canada's stance with the organization?

A. No, I don't see any change in the foreseeable future. I believe that our position within the Alliance, and the Alliance generally, is strengthened by the review that Canada made. There had been some who had suggested that Canada should not be in the Alliance, it was not in our interests, that we didn't add to our security by belonging to the Alliance. We discussed all those questions. We looked at NATO and we looked at the alternatives. We considered whether we should be neutral or non-aligned, or just in an alliance with the Americans or in NATO but without any troops. We discarded all those alternatives and we came to the conclusion it was in Canada's interest, having in mind our geographic position, the nature of our relations with Europe and with the United States, that we should not only be in the Alliance but that we should contribute to the forces in position in Europe.