

problems in Europe. France's welcome decision to remain a party to the Treaty is evidence that they continue to share with the other members the same basic objectives and continue to regard the North Atlantic Council and its subordinate institutions as the appropriate forum for ensuring that Western policy on East-West relations remains in harmony.

Let it be clear, therefore, that we are not gathered here merely to patch up our differences. Indeed, it may be no bad thing that we should have been shaken out of whatever complacency we may have felt as a result of the very success of NATO. Our responses have reconfirmed the vitality of the alliance and the importance we attach to the concept of a collective approach. We are faced as never before with an opportunity as well as a challenge. Our task is to develop and define a new relationship within the alliance which will reflect both the vitality of the concept and the special concerns of France. In short, we want an alliance in more than name only.

The great strength of our way of life -- and the advantage we hold over our adversaries -- is our capacity to maintain unity in diversity. Seen in this perspective, the present crisis in our alliance is more than a problem to be overcome. It is a test of the very foundations of the political system we all share. Let us set to work with imagination, moderation and goodwill. Let us determine to succeed.

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