

into a recognition of our geographic and environmental interdependence. We need to understand the Soviet Union far better than we do and significantly upgrade its place in Canada's international relations.

The visit of Prime Minister Mulroney last fall did much to reactivate a moribund relationship and to arouse Soviet expectations of sustained Canadian interest, although we think that another shot of political adrenalin is now needed. We would highlight the fact that our visit was the first ever by a Canadian parliamentary committee to the Soviet Union, and followed the visit last August of a parliamentary delegation led by the Speakers of the House of Commons and the Senate. Among the most satisfying and encouraging of our meetings were those with newly elected Soviet parliamentarians, at the union, republic and city levels. These encounters convinced us that there is great potential for expanded "parliamentary diplomacy" aimed at generating political will for closer relations and for tackling specific problems of mutual interest, ranging from trade to security and the environment.

In the Germanies, we witnessed the whirlwind preparations for the unification of a country broken apart as a result of its earlier history of aggression. We were struck by the supreme confidence of some Germans that "internal unification" — those economic and social matters that are the business of the German people themselves to settle — was only a matter of time, and *Deutschemarks*. When viewed up close, however, one can see that the process is not quite so easy as that. We found that those who favour rapid unification were genuinely fearful that the project might be imperilled by delay, but many Germans question the pace of change and its social and economic costs. It remains the case, however, that economic union is proceeding rapidly to its July 2 deadline. Canada, for its part, should be aware of the exciting opportunities that may be created by the economic and environmental rehabilitation of East Germany.

Apart from the internal issues of unification, there are also many external issues that concern Germany's neighbours and the international community, three of which we will highlight in this report: the Poland-German border, Germany and the European Economic Community and the question of a united Germany in NATO. The negotiation of these important issues should not blind us to a very encouraging feature of contemporary German politics: irrespective of party or ideology, Germany now sees its destiny as inextricably tied to the building of a peaceful and prosperous European community.

### **Canada and the Future of Europe**

Our visit to the Soviet Union and the Germanies convinces us that we must now consolidate and built upon the revolution in East-West relations. We see the following as