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bases at home, we have our politics too. And it's difficult to close bases at home and keep bases open abroad.

But it is in our interest to keep troops in Europe. We cut back quite considerably but more or less in line with what other countries are doing. So we...but all of the Europeans raised that with us. Interestingly enough the Eastern European, Poland and Czechoslovakia both raised it with me when I was there in the summer, that they were very anxious that there be a Canadian military presence in Europe, not because it's large but because to them it gives some confidence or some comfort around the fact that the Trans Atlantic Alliance continues to exist and this was just shortly after the coup. So they were going through a period of feeling insecure. And they both raised it with me as well as our native colleagues.

Q: Domestically is that a hard position to sell to the Canadian people now? It's difficult sometimes to convince Americans that we need to maintain a presence in Europe because of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

MCDUGALL: Yes, there are...it takes a little explaining. I think the fact that the coup in the Soviet Union and also the situation in Yugoslavia as well as the tension among the Republics in the Soviet Union, has I think opened some Canadian eyes to the fact that even though the cold war as we knew it is over, that the volatility that may result and the tensions that can result means that you know, there is a need for a military presence. I think that those were graphic