

Third, we made the case that it contributes to stability throughout Europe to have a united Germany actively involved in institutions like NATO and the European Community; and we heard and understand the case that the Soviets need to see evidence of changes in NATO before they will believe that institution is adapting to the new realities of Europe. As the Prime Minister said yesterday, Canada will work to ensure that Article 2 of NATO, the political article originally proposed by Canada, becomes much more central to NATO.

Fourth, we discussed in detail measures on which Canada and the Soviet Union agree to strengthen the process and the relevance of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Our two nations are on the outer ends of the new Europe that is emerging. We have a special interest, and a common interest, in developing strong institutions that define and unite a large Europe, from Vladivostok to Vancouver Island.

Finally, the Prime Minister and I both raised the serious situation in the Baltic States, and repeated our expectation that there would not be a crackdown, and that the issues, whose sensitivity everyone acknowledges, will be resolved by negotiation. I welcomed Mr. Shevardnadze's assurance that the Soviet Union intends to seek political solutions to disagreements, whether those relate to matters they consider to be internal or external.

Mr. Speaker, 1989 was the year of European revolution. 1990 is the beginning of a decade of re-construction. New societies and new institutions must be built, and that task has only just begun.

The revolution of 1989 has fundamental implications for all of Europe - and for North America which, in terms of ties of language, family and history, is in many ways Europe across the Atlantic. That is why this government has been conducting a full review of its policy towards Europe.

Canada's interest in Europe is not for reasons of history, or nostalgia, or charity. It is not only their security which is at stake, it is ours. It is not only their prosperity, it is ours.

The means by which we pursue those interests must change radically, to reflect the new security framework now in evolution; to reflect the growing power and unity of Western Europe; and to reflect the particular advantages and assets of Canada.

The primary Canadian bridge to Europe has been our contribution to the North Atlantic Alliance. That contribution has involved thousands of Canadian troops on the ground in Germany, troops whose lives have been put on the line daily in the defence of freedom.

That military contribution is bound to decline.