

CANADA AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

"We simply could not conceive of the pan-European process without the closest and most direct involvement of Canada and the United States of America."

Eduard Shevardnadze

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union.

We would report the almost universal opinion that Europe wants and needs continued Canadian participation in its affairs, and we found this to be true in both Eastern and Western Europe. Dr. Messelwitz, the Parliamentary State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic, told us why.

"It is important that North America continue to play a role or we will wind up with a Europe from Poland to Portugal that will also exclude the USSR. We want the USSR in Europe, but this also requires the balance of North America. The United States and Canada belong to the balance of the European landscape."

Europe may need Canada's peacekeeping capacities and our talent for helping to construct new multilateral institutions. For example, Canada, in the person of Lester Pearson, was one of the countries instrumental in developing Article 2 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which provides for political, economic and social cooperation among the NATO allies. During this transitional period, it may prove to be an important vehicle for transforming the alliance and for structuring the new dialogue with the Warsaw Pact.

If Europe needs Canada, some of the Europeans to whom we spoke also insisted that Canada needs Europe. Michael Sturmer remarked, "I would say that such an Atlantic role is essential to Canada's future. Without it, I don't see much future for Canada. The United States is so overwhelming." He also urged a "catalytic" and more "aggressive" role for Canada. We agree and think that Canada should — and can — be more independent than was possible in the era of the cold war. Canadian troops in Europe will no longer be the litmus test of Canada's commitment. At this point, we envisage a major conversion in the Canadian military presence in Europe and, specifically, think that our military could make its greatest contribution in developing the confidence-building security institutions of the CSCE. At the same time, Canada should shift the focus of its relationship with Europe towards ensuring close relations with and access to the European Economic Community and becoming an effective player in the economic development of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.