

## East-West détente dependent on NATO solidarity

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) must ensure a firmer foundation for the *détente* process if it is to achieve a more constructive, secure and durable East-West relationship, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan told the North Atlantic Council's ministerial meeting in Luxembourg, May 17-18.

In his capacity as honorary president of the council, Dr. MacGuigan delivered the major address at the opening session of the meeting. The meeting focused on preparations for the NATO Summit in Bonn and on the management of East-West relations including negotiations with the Soviet Union on arms control.

The Canadian external affairs minister told the meeting that a united alliance which is able and willing to negotiate from a sense of strength and confidence was vital to the process of *détente*. He said that the alliance demonstrated its unity in January when it condemned the imposition of martial law in Poland and in its continued support of the 1979 two-track decision on the modernization of intermediate-range nuclear forces in Europe. The alliance's two-track decision was in response to the threat stemming from the build-up of Soviet nuclear forces in Europe. This decision, said Dr. MacGuigan, "has already borne fruit by bringing the Soviet Union to the bargaining table in Geneva".

### Consultations important

Dr. MacGuigan emphasized that alliance solidarity depended on consultation among members not only on matters that relate directly to the NATO area but also to out-of-area developments that can have an important impact on the alliance. As in his previous address to the council last December, the Canadian minister referred to the need for ensuring that the publics in NATO member countries are well informed about alliance policies.

"Our message must be that the Atlantic alliance is dedicated to preserving peace, to renouncing the use of force to settle disputes, and to making the world a safer place. We must make it clear that for the West to accept 'quick fix' solutions, unilateral disarmament or any type of weapons freeze that perpetuates a superiority for the Warsaw Pact would more likely increase the risk of a conflict than reduce it, and would leave us open to the danger of Soviet intimidation. Our message must also be that we are

against the first use of force. Hostilities once begun create their own destructive and uncontrollable momentum," said Secretary of State for External Affairs MacGuigan.

"NATO security policy, proven successful for more than 30 years, is to maintain a combination of conventional and nuclear forces at the level necessary to demonstrate that aggression in the NATO area would not pay. But this is not all. A further component of our policy is that we are also committed to reduce through realistic, balanced and verifiable agreements the level of both NATO and Warsaw Pact forces. Defence and deterrence on the one hand, and arms control and disarmament on the other, are two sides of the same security coin. They cannot be safely separated. They should not prudently be pursued in isolation from each other. It is through their mutual pursuit that we shall achieve balanced security," said Dr. MacGuigan.

The Canadian external affairs minister told the meeting that although intermediate-range missiles would not be situated in Canada, the Canadian government is negotiating with the United States an agreement under which unarmed *Cruise* missiles would be tested in Canada. "Our purpose is to assist in the development of an improved deterrent posture for the alliance, and to contribute an additional incentive for constructive arms control negotiations," he added.

In concluding his address Dr. MacGuigan said: "The negotiating task we are setting ourselves is not an easy one. But given the choice between an arms race, and long and difficult arms control negotiations, we would all prefer the latter — as would the other side I am sure.... The idea of dedication to an arms race is profoundly repugnant, a mark of poverty of spirit rather than of the greatness of spirit which is characteristic of the West. The West has far more to gain than to lose from a balanced and verifiable reduction in the present level of armaments. Our dedication is, therefore, to undiminished security at lower levels of armaments, to a reduction of tensions, and to a safer and saner world for all."

### Talks with European ministers

While in Luxembourg, Secretary of State for External Affairs MacGuigan also met with that country's Minister of Foreign Affairs Colette Flesch to discuss bilateral questions.

Dr. MacGuigan visited Belgium, May 18-19 for bilateral talks with Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Léo Tindemans and Minister of Economic Affairs Marc Eyskens. The Canadian minister also met with Mr. Tindemans, in his capacity as President of the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community, along with Gaston Thorn, President of the Commission of the European Communities and Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice-President for External Relations of the Commission of the European Communities.



Luxembourg's Prime Minister Pierre Werner (right) meets with Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan (left) and Luxembourg's Minister of Foreign Affairs Colette Flesch at the opening session of the NATO ministerial meeting.