

we would do well to remember:

- that there is no peace settlement in Europe and no immediate prospect of one;
- that a prime source of tension - the division of Europe, and more particularly of Germany - continues;
- that the USSR is militarily stronger than it has ever been in the past and retains massive forces in Eastern Europe; and
- that, despite its progress, Europe alone could not withstand a revival of Soviet political pressure, let alone the pressure of Soviet military power.

In other words, while there has been undoubted progress in Europe, we have not reached the point where the West can safely dispense with NATO's military strength for defence against aggression.

This does not mean that NATO countries will not be prepared to join the countries of the Warsaw Pact in measures calculated to reduce tension further, in any way that could bring about a mutual reduction of forces. In this and in other ways, NATO can make an important contribution to the growth of confidence necessary to reach a mutually agreeable settlement in Europe. This will help in "building bridges to the East".

How do we see Canada's role?

First - Canada will continue to work through NATO and through every other possible channel, bilateral or multi-lateral, for progress towards detente in Europe.

Second - Canada will contribute its fair share to NATO's collective defence needs, given that the security of Europe contributes to the security of Canada. If in this way we can help to maintain stability in the Atlantic region, it is surely to our advantage to do so.