

During our discussions with President Gorbachev and Mr Shevardnadze, it became clear that Soviet concerns about Germany go far beyond the implications of a united Germany, and in fact centre on the type of Atlantic alliance to which a united Germany would belong. Concerns of this kind cannot be shrugged off; at the very least, they are legitimate, and NATO has an obligation to adjust to the new reality and to show openness in its approach.

This is why, in Turnberry, Scotland, I told my NATO colleagues that the Alliance must open its mind to the East, that we must devote our energy to reforming NATO in such a way that no country will perceive it as a threat. Indeed, all countries should be reassured by the presence of NATO.

This is the meaning we should give the initiative taken by the NATO ministers on that occasion in issuing their "Turnberry message". This short text formally recognizes the need to understand and recognize the legitimate security interests of all States. It confirms the willingness of the Alliance to contribute actively to the creation and strengthening of relations of trust among all European countries.

This message of "friendship and co-operation" was largely the result of a Canadian initiative. Canadian diplomats drafted the first version and then undertook discussions with our allies. It shows the dynamic role Canada can play in NATO.

I am absolutely convinced that such openness of spirit is necessary. As the Prime Minister told President Gorbachev, it is [TRANS] "reasonable and necessary that full account be taken of the hard reality of World War II and that a formula be found which will respond to the undeniable interests of the Soviet Union in matters of security."

Movement of the Alliance toward a more political role is thus a very positive element which, with successful negotiations on disarmament and arms control, should contribute to the establishment of a new security system in Europe.

The NATO Summit in London in early July provides an opportunity - and a challenge - for all Alliance members to prove to their publics - and to their old adversaries - that NATO is transforming, and that its members share a new commitment to common security equal to their traditional commitment to collective defence.

In the spirit of the "Message from Turnberry", the Summit should issue a clear and unambiguous signal to the USSR and the countries of Eastern Europe that we are prepared to build a structure of security together with, and not apart from, those countries. In particular, the Summit should:

- Offer to hold regular meetings at the ministerial and senior official level with the countries of Eastern and Central Europe, including the USSR;