

Quarrels and competition between East and West have had a profoundly negative influence on many areas of the world. Perhaps most significant, the Cold War distorted the functioning of the United Nations, stunted the development of multilateral cooperation and inhibited genuine opportunities for dialogue and progress. The prospect of real peace in Europe at last provides us the opportunity to return to the unfinished business of building a modern and effective multilateral system.

The challenges we face as dynamic societies go well beyond orthodox definitions of national security. The global natural environment is threatened and the international institutions to protect it are clearly inadequate. The scourge of drug abuse is felt around the world, north and south, and yet we have found no satisfactory collective means to curtail it. The burden of debt is a prejudice to the future of middle-income countries around the world. And hunger and disease are too often the

fate of the world's poorest countries mired in economic hopelessness and social despair.

And so this meeting in Ottawa has, in my judgement, two main tasks: first, to concentrate diligently on the work at hand so that an agreement on Open

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Skies will be achieved when the delegations reassemble in Budapest; and, more generally, to seize this unprecedented moment in recent history to replace the Cold War and its incalculable costs in economic wealth, misspent human genius and wasted social opportunity, with a new ethic of cooperation based on peace and prosperity and common purpose.

We who are gathered here in this room today bear a heavy responsibility to our nations and to history because the opportunity is given to few people to help shape a new era in world affairs. We carry the hopes and the prayers of people from Vladivostok to Vancouver, and from countries far removed from the old East-West axis of conflict.

So let us work together to multiply the gains that we have made in relations between the countries of East and West. Let us dedicate ourselves to building a world that the Cold War made illusory and unreachable for all countries and all peoples. Let us broaden our horizons and open our skies to peace and prosperity for all.

Ladies and gentlemen, the world is watching all of you in high expectation. Grasp the opportunity that is open to you now. On behalf of all Canadians, who are proud of your presence here and grateful for your leadership, I wish you all good luck. ■

Clark Calls on Ministers to Put Political Will into Practice

The following is the text of the address to the Open Skies Conference delivered by the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, on February 13, 1990.

I believe this past day and a half have marked an important beginning in the construction of a new framework for political and security relations among our countries. This has been a unique occasion.

It is the first time that foreign ministers of our countries have gathered together since the dawning of the new age of democracy and freedom in Eastern Europe. We are meeting not as old adversaries, but as new partners in a new task, the task of building a durable peace in Europe.

We also have a new type of challenge before us. That challenge is not so

much to initiate change; it is to channel it, to ensure that it remains permanent and stabilizing in its consequences. In effect, the challenge before us as ministers is to keep up with change.

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ground goes beyond specifics. It relates also to a shared sense of purpose and mission.

Allow me, as Chairman, the luxury of summarizing what I see as the common elements of this shared purpose.

First, I think that all of us accept that we have entered a new era in relations between East and West. It is an era where the terms East and West are themselves beginning to lose meaning.

Second, I detect a consensus that we must act quickly. We must act quickly to consolidate the gains that have been made thus far and to ensure that future change proceeds in a way that enhances our common security rather than detracts from it.

Third, I believe there is agreement that there is an overriding requirement to be guided by the dual goals of stability and predictability. We must act in such a way as to smooth the bumps on the road ahead and to maximize the predictability of change.

Fourth, I also detect a shared belief that a guiding principle of our future