

It is our hope that political leaders will take up the challenge and that their efforts can be translated quickly into practical terms in the various negotiating fora. If there is to be genuine dialogue in these negotiations, it has to be based on a viable international security policy. The foundation of such a policy must include the principles of reciprocity, transparency, balance and confidence.

We find the lack of confidence particularly disturbing in the superpower negotiations on intermediate-range nuclear forces in Geneva which have reached a critical stage. In no other forum is a true dialogue as urgently needed as in the INF talks. If they are to have a chance at success, the parties must accept as their fundamental objective increased mutual security rather than unilateral advantage. It is of the utmost importance that the two sides persevere in the bargaining process and come to grips with central issues. We strongly support a negotiated solution that will make deployment of any intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe unnecessary. At the same time, in the absence of concrete results in the INF negotiations, we are convinced that there is no alternative to deployment of the West's intermediate-range missiles. The urgency lies in making this alternative unnecessary.

As evidence of the West's determination to see a reduction in the level of nuclear weapons in Europe, I would draw the Committee's attention to the decision of the Western alliance's defence ministers last week at Montebello, Quebec, to withdraw, unilaterally, 1400 tactical nuclear warheads from the number in Western Europe during the next several years. This will bring to 2400 the total number of warheads which will have been unilaterally removed by the West since 1979.

A great deal of hope is riding on the Conference on Confidence- and Security- Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe which will be starting its work in Stockholm in January. Our hope is that the development of confidence through a régime of confidence- and security- building measures covering Europe may result in transparency and predictability in military affairs which in turn could induce a degree of security among participating states that would make a balanced reduction of armaments a viable option.