

public support depends on public acceptance of the Alliance as a body to which each member nation should belong. This acceptance is threatened if it appears to others that a member nation is taking action in its own interest at the expense of others.

In a publication of my Department that will be released in a few months, I have included a section on Canada and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. I should like to quote for you the last sentence of that particular section. It reads: "The Alliance allows, and obliges, Canada to take an active role in European affairs and enunciates the interdependency of Europe and the North American continent". This is one of the realities of which I have just spoken. It is, therefore, more important than ever that we learn to understand one another. The nature of our relations may have changed and evolved, but the interests, the dedication to common objectives and principles, that served as the basis for our Alliance 25 years ago still exist today and form one basis of our understanding. So, if we speak of this year as being one of the revitalization of the Alliance -- yes, I agree. Perhaps the Ottawa Declaration has caused us to focus more clearly on these principles because we have rededicated ourselves to them. But I maintain -- and I hope that you will agree -- that the Atlantic Alliance has constantly observed, and, I know, will ever continue to dedicate itself to those principles that underly its basic viability.

S/C