

co-existence has to be cultivated also in terms of public attitudes and of consultation and of voluntary and close co-operation between all member governments.

To this end, the first task of NATO is to look to its internal strength and unity, and to resist those forces which would weaken it. This means that our cohesion must find a more durable basis than the fear which originally brought us together in 1949. We must seek out new ways of providing not only for the continued maintenance of a defensive shield against aggression, but also for strengthening the existing ties which bind members of the Atlantic Community more closely together. These ties, moreover, are not artificial creations; they existed long before NATO.

Since the war, the nations of Western Europe, with their vast reserves of knowledge, skills, and initiatives have moved toward a closer unity, the outward and institutional expression of which takes many forms.

Viewed against the background of narrow concepts of sovereignty and ancient enmities, the progress which has been made in the last ten years towards European unity is encouraging, though it is not as fast as some impatient souls would desire. Furthermore, expressed in practical forms, it gives Europeans more - not less - authority in playing their proper role on the world stage. And that is all to the good.

The island state of Britain, with its world as well as European responsibilities, can play an important part in this move to European integration by helping to bridge the gap between the interlocking and developing communities of Europe and the Atlantic. At the same time, the North American countries - the United States and Canada - must more than ever before realize that their destinies extend across the Atlantic.

While the other countries concerned have their part to play, it is, I think, true to say that European integration and the cohesion of the Atlantic Community - neither of which excludes the other - will proceed as far and as fast as the United States and the United Kingdom make possible by recognizing the importance of their own roles in bringing it about; and in a way which will strengthen the Atlantic area as a whole.

This, then, is the first task of the new NATO - to strengthen the internal unity of the alliance, to prevent centrifugal forces from sundering it; to build upon the