

Chapter 5

DEFENCE AND COLLECTIVE SECURITY

There was a marked deterioration in East-West relations during the year under review, culminating in the USSR withdrawal from the Geneva nuclear arms control negotiations. Events such as the Korean Airlines disaster and degeneration in the dialogue between the two superpowers served to convince Canada that it must play a more active part towards reversing the dangerous downward trend in East-West relations.

Arms control and disarmament

Canada's efforts to promote the negotiation of verifiable arms control and disarmament agreements achieved modest but important successes in the Committee on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva and in the preparations for the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe (CDE) and was highlighted in the autumn and winter by the Prime Minister's initiative on East-West relations and international security.

In the autumn of 1983, concerned at the worsening trend in East-West relations, the Prime Minister undertook an initiative to restore confidence and re-establish high-level political dialogue between East and West, and particularly between the two superpowers. The initiative involved a number of specific proposals: a conference of the five nuclear weapon states to limit strategic nuclear arsenals; a concerted political effort to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation régime; a substantive Western response to Eastern proposals on Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions (MBFR) tabled in the summer of 1983; and the inauguration of the Stockholm Conference at a senior political level.

The NATO decisions to send foreign ministers to the opening of the CDE, to table a new proposal at MBFR and to issue a declaration which placed heavy emphasis on genuine *détente* and dialogue all reflect the degree to which the Prime Minister's goals were shared by Canada's allies:

Concurrently he outlined three proposals to be pursued by the Canadian government, which would give additional substance to the strategy of suffocation he put forward in 1978: (a) a ban on the testing and deployment of high altitude anti-satellite systems; (b) ensuring the verifiability of future strategic weapons systems; and (c) restrictions on the mobility of terrestrially deployed ICBMs.

In January, the Secretary of State for External Affairs joined the foreign ministers of the other 34 signatories to the Helsinki Final Act in Stockholm at the inauguration of the CDE. While the Conference was considered sufficiently important in its own right to merit the attendance of foreign ministers, it took on greater significance by marking the re-establishment of high-level East-West dialogue, which had not taken place since the Korean Airlines disaster in September.

During the year Canada was active in major arms control negotiations, such as the pursuit in the Committee on Disar-

mament in Geneva of a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons. As chairman of the Chemical Weapons Working Group, Canada was able to develop consensus on a document containing the basic elements of a treaty with areas of agreement and disagreement clearly identified.

To underscore Canada's commitment to arms control and disarmament, the government announced its intention to create the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security as a publicly funded centre to gather, collate and digest the enormous volume of information available on defence and arms control issues.

Defence and NATO

In the absence of any results from Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force (INF) disarmament talks with the Soviet Union, NATO began deploying ground-launched Cruise and Pershing missiles in December to match the growing number of Soviet SS-20 missiles. NATO ministers regretted that so little had been achieved since their initial offer of negotiations in December 1979. They stressed that their ultimate goal remained that there be neither USSR nor US land-based INF missiles, and that deployment of NATO missiles could be halted or reversed by concrete results at the negotiating table. In this spirit they sought an early resumption of the negotiations. At a meeting in Montebello, Quebec, NATO defence ministers agreed unilaterally to withdraw 1 400 nuclear weapons from Europe in addition to the 1 000 removed in 1980, and to withdraw one weapon for each Pershing II and Cruise missile deployed — which would bring the NATO stockpile to its lowest point in 20 years.

Following a private meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Canada in late 1982, the Allies launched a major review of East-West relations to develop a more comprehensive approach to dialogue with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Review of these studies led to the release of a special communiqué at the spring 1983 ministerial meeting stressing NATO's resolve to maintain a constructive dialogue with the East.

In December 1983, NATO foreign ministers considered the state of East-West relations such that they issued a declaration re-emphasizing the defensive character of the alliance and the essential security link between North America and Europe. This declaration foreswore the notion of military superiority and stressed Western willingness to recognize the legitimate security interests of the USSR on a reciprocal basis.

For their part, NATO defence ministers reaffirmed the importance of building up NATO's conventional strength to offset the imbalance of forces in Europe until such time as an MBFR agreement is achieved. Canada continued to meet the NATO objective of 3 per cent real increase annually in defence spending as part of a broader policy of improving Canada's