

Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark made the first of two major statements on Canadian policy towards Europe. Speaking at McGill University in Montreal, he outlined Canada's interests in developments in Europe and defined the considerations guiding Canadian policy towards the region.⁵ Paramount among these was the requirement for stability -- political, economic and military. This meant a continuing role for NATO, as the guarantor of Western security, but a "new NATO" with an expanded mission that took into account the "psychology and politics" of security relations. It also meant fuller use of the CSCE, as a means of linking Europe -- East and West -- with North America, and of laying the framework for political and economic cooperation. According to Clark, ways had to be found "to further institutionalize, politicize and broaden the role" of the CSCE. The CSCE was to "become the drafting board for the new European architecture."

Clark followed up with details on May 26 in an address entitled "Canada and the New Europe," delivered at Humber College, Lakeshore Campus, in Toronto. In the interim, officials had completed the European policy review, Cabinet had approved a policy framework that allocated a key place to the CSCE and Ottawa (in March) had circulated to Canadian missions in Europe the first in a series of CSCE "Strategy and Action Plans," instructing posts to review the Canadian approach with host governments and to open dialogue with them. The aim of Canada's strategy was to support and reinforce the CSCE as the key pan-European forum to address security, economic and human dimension questions. The main ways of doing this, as elaborated in the action plan and Clark's Humber College speech, were to ensure that the CSCE: 1) took a comprehensive approach to security; 2) developed an institutional framework; and 3) established mechanisms for crisis prevention and conflict resolution.

A Comprehensive Approach to Security

In Canada's view, security in Europe would result from across-the-board action in the political, military, economic and social spheres designed to promote stable and prosperous polities. This mandated a continuing emphasis on all three CSCE baskets. Canada wanted to avoid the CSCE being pressed solely into a Basket I focus, a real danger given the interest of many West Europeans in giving high priority to the EC in economic matters and to the Council of Europe in human dimension matters. In Clark's words, the CSCE should become "a true instrument of cooperative security, one which would supplement deterrence with reassurance.... [A]s the nature of European security extends beyond military balances to political stability and economic prosperity, there is a central role for the CSCE in the areas of human rights, economic cooperation and environmental action."

The phrase "cooperative security" was no speech-writer's contrivance. In February, just as the European policy review was winding down, the government had launched a second review, this one of Canada's security policy, involving officials from the Departments of External Affairs and National Defence and consultations with persons outside government. By May the review had reached the report stage. Noting the decline in the importance of military threats to Canadian security, the report proposed that Canada focus more on other

⁵Statement 90/09, included in Annex.