

the subject of the nuclear-test ban, I welcomed on behalf of the Canadian delegation and the Government of Canada the recent Anglo-American approach in Moscow in an attempt to break the current deadlock. I made clear the Canadian view that there must be unremitting effort to bridge the narrow gap between East and West on this issue. Verification is, as it has so often been, the root of the trouble.

In our appraisal at the Council meeting of the state of the Alliance, a good deal of attention was paid to the improvement and intensification of timely consultation on political developments. This is a subject on which Members of this Government have had a good deal of experience, in that the Prime Minister was intimately associated in 1955 with the specially-appointed group which originally set up the procedures and basic rules which have been followed in the Alliance ever since. Since taking over my responsibilities, I have found that impressive strides have been made in this field in the intervening years, but, in that same period there has been a corresponding growth in the scope and complexity of the problems facing the members of the Alliance, which demands an even more intensive effort in this direction. I took the occasion, in reviewing this question as seen from the Canadian viewpoint, to make clear that any shortcomings there may have been on the Canadian side would be removed.

I should like to make clear to the House, as I did to our NATO colleagues, that the Canadian Government looks upon its contribution to NATO, and indeed regards the military role of the Alliance itself, as part of a broad international network of peace-keeping activities. As the Prime Minister indicated in his remarks at the opening ceremony, the interdependence of all nations is a distinctive characteristic of our era. It has come to be recognized that a local war, whether in Indochina or Africa, if not contained, can have as grave consequences as any outbreak of hostilities in the more familiar trouble spots of direct concern to NATO. Moreover, participation in many of these peace-keeping responsibilities outside the NATO area is, by tacit concern, denied to the major powers, since one of the primary objects is to prevent fighting without inviting the even greater danger of a great-power confrontation. For this reason, it has been and continues to be Canadian policy to assume international peace-keeping obligations both inside the United Nations, as in Gaza or the Congo, and outside, as in the Indochina Commissions. Through these activities we have a constant reminder that the NATO Alliance has to be seen in a broad world perspective.

To place NATO in global context in this way, is not, however, in any way to deny that the central challenge to today's world is between the closed totalitarian regimes of the Communist bloc and the free societies of the West, and that NATO is the instrument on which we all rely to meet that challenge. One of the principal subjects with which we were concerned at this meeting was the possible nature of that challenge, and to ensure that NATO forces should be so equipped as to be able to offer a range of responses appropriate to any aggression affecting the treaty area. In this