

especially significant. The speed with which our hopes and prospects can be realized, however, will depend to an important degree upon the international atmosphere. We must work, within the Western alliance of which we are a member, toward a reduction of tension if we are to be free to devote a greater part of our national talents and energies to constructive Canadian development.

### NATO

Through NATO Canada is able to work intimately with the United Kingdom, the United States and the 12 European member states in the formulation of policies and attitudes which are designed to facilitate progress toward a settlement of some of the highly complicated issues dividing East and West.

Today NATO takes stock of the past decade and the plans for the years ahead. Nothing that can be seen on the horizon suggests or permits the luxury of a slackening in the preparedness of free nations. The need for vigilance and unity is as imperative now as at any time during the past decade. It is imperative not only for reasons of our security but also in the context of our never ending search through diplomacy for peaceful solutions to the problems dividing the world today.

The presence of Canadian forces alongside their friends from the United Kingdom, the United States and Europe is both an earnest of Canadian intentions and an important cause of the respect accorded Canada in the daily conduct of international affairs. I might mention, in connection with the stationing of Canadian forces in Germany, that the negotiations concerning supplementary arrangements governing their status in that country have recently been concluded, and that signature is expected to take place next month. I regret that as the House will, I hope, have risen by that time, it will not be possible to table the documents, but this will be done early in the next session of Parliament.

Even though the initial emphasis in NATO was on military requirements, the members of the Alliance have recognized the fundamental community of interests and aspirations shared by all parties to the treaty, and have fostered through the years the development of an Atlantic Community of like-minded nations and peoples. Today, when the threat to the free world is not only military but economic, political and psychological, Canada is playing its part in stressing the need for consultations between member governments in the development of both the military and non-military aspects of the Alliance. Support for NATO remains an essential cornerstone of Canada's foreign policy.