

in particular of Germany and Berlin. Thirdly, we should take advantage of the present atmosphere to seek settlement of secondary issues and, to the extent possible, improve our bilateral relations with the Soviet Union and other Communist countries. There is much we can do in this way by means of increased trade, by visits and by cultural and scientific exchanges. In Eastern Europe, the opportunities in that regard seem to me to be particularly promising. If, by increasing our contacts with these countries, we can break down the barriers of misunderstanding and contribute to conditions in which those countries are enabled to give stronger expression to their national interests, then surely we are working towards a useful objective. I believe we are all in agreement on this approach and each of us in his own way is trying to make progress in the bilateral field.

In all this, there is one important condition to be observed. While world conditions today probably leave us all with somewhat greater flexibility than previously in the conduct of our bilateral relations with the Communist world, the need to tell one another in NATO what we are doing and why is in no sense lessened. Indeed, unless we maintain our habit of working and consulting together, mistrust will tend to set in and we shall lose sight of the fundamental reasons that keep NATO together and become obsessed with our differences.

Economic Co-operation

There is one other sphere of co-operation among members of the Atlantic community to which I shall like to refer this evening. This is in the economic realm. It will be recalled that Canada has from the beginning attached great importance to that kind of co-operation which is envisaged in Article 2 of the North Atlantic Treaty. Since the early days of the Treaty, much progress has been made in that direction. We have set targets for economic growth that are intended to result in a fuller mobilization of our great resources. We have co-operated in arrangements designed to channel a growing volume of assistance to the less-developed countries for their economic development and to improve the terms on which such assistance is made available. We are embarking on negotiations that we hope and expect will substantially reduce the barriers to world trade. We are also engaged in ensuring that the expansion of world trade is not held up by any inadequacy of the means of arrangements for financing it. And we continue, of course, to look at all these problems in the context of the confrontation between the Soviet and Atlantic worlds.

It is only fair to say that much of the economic co-operation I have described has been conducted within a somewhat wider framework than the NATO forum. In view of the magnitude and scope of the problems requiring a co-operative approach this should come as no surprise. I should add, however, that there has been in all this no attempt, either deliberate or unconscious, to perpetuate the division of the world into rich and poor. On the contrary, we have tried in all we have been doing to bear firmly in mind our responsibilities