

I wish to emphasize that this statement was approved by the foreign ministers of all of the 15 countries in NATO. I think this is a convincing demonstration that the 15 members of the Organization are agreed that the alliance is not only a force in maintaining stability in Europe but that it is committed to active involvement in the continued search for peace.

I would report, moreover, that the allies took encouragement from developments in the Soviet world. Here is what they had to say in this study:

"No peaceful order in Europe is possible without a major effort by all concerned. The evolution of Soviet and East European policies gives ground for hope that those governments may eventually come to recognize the advantages to them of collaborating in working towards a peaceful settlement. But no final and stable settlement is possible without a solution of a number of questions, and particularly the German question, which lies at the heart of present tensions in Europe. Any such settlement must end the unnatural barriers between Eastern and Western Europe, which are most clearly and cruelly manifested in the division of Germany.

"Accordingly, the allies are resolved to direct their energies to this purpose by realistic measures designed to further a détente in East-West relations. The relaxation of tensions is not the final goal but is part of a long-term process to promote better relations and to foster a settlement. The ultimate political purpose of the alliance is to achieve a just and lasting peaceful order in Europe accompanied by appropriate security guarantees."

In these two statements it is clear that there has been a shift of emphasis on the political role of the alliance as an instrument for bringing about détente and a continuing recognition of the importance of the military capacity, particularly, if I may add, in the light of additional military strengths taken on by the Soviet Union in the level of its military appropriations.

Now the study which was initiated by the Foreign Minister of Belgium and from which I have quoted certain excerpts concluded that the alliance continues to be a vigorous Organization which is constantly adapting itself to changing conditions. In our judgment, it has shown its capacity to grow and adapt to the evolution in relations between the countries of Europe and North America, yet it has remained an essential link between Europe and North America. This is a very important consideration for Canada. The alliance has also made it possible for its smaller members to participate effectively in the dialogue with the Soviet Union. And it has provided, until the present, the only effective defence association linking the larger and smaller countries of Western Europe and enabling them to co-operate in a massive defence effort without arousing fears of one another.

For Canada, in particular, the link between North America and Europe which NATO represents, and the consequent involvement in wider Atlantic affairs which it affords, has been beneficial. It has provided an important extra-continental partnership to balance our close bilateral relations with the United States. It has facilitated the development of vastly increased political and