

The Prime Minister has made it clear that we regard NATO as a cornerstone of our security policy, and that we do not wish to be -- nor are we -- silent partners. We have joined with our Allies not only in ensuring our collective security, but in seeking ways to reduce tension between East and West, to limit and hopefully reverse the arms race. The evidence is clear: we are active participants in the negotiations to reduce conventional armaments in Vienna; we seek ways to improve confidence and build security in Europe at the Stockholm Conference; and we continue to consult with our partners in other fields bearing directly on the East/West relationship.

Canadians played a fundamental role in the creation of the Atlantic Alliance, and on this anniversary it is fitting to recall the creative role played by distinguished Canadian leaders such as Louis St. Laurent and Lester B. Pearson. It was not so much fear that inspired those who made the North Atlantic Treaty, but a hope for the future based on the principles and values of the Western family of nations. The task they set for us remains a pressing one as we proceed through the turbulent decade of the 1980s. The vision which moved the founders of NATO has served us well for thirty-five years and will continue to guide Canadians in an ever-changing world.