opportunity and challenge to the members of NATO. The opportunity is to achieve significant force reductions in Europe, without which it is difficult to contemplate any meaningful solution to the East/West tensions. The challenge is to reach an Alliance agreement about the minimal force levels which would leave all of Europe more secure.

1988 will probably also see a reconvening of the thirty-five nation negotiations on Confidence and Security-Building Measures in Europe, with a mandate to develop further the CSBMs already agreed. NATO participants will then have to decide the extent to which they should accept measures that would constrain their normal peacetime military activities.

These two sets of negotiations will be long and tedious in their complexity, but on their success depends the long-term prospects for any significant reduction of tensions in Europe. Canada's influence in these arms control discussions will depend more on the quality of its proposals than the size of its standing army. In particular, in the field of satellite verification, Canada is in a strong position to put constructive proposals to our allies.

g) Disarmament and Development

The United Nations Conference on Disarmament and Development, held in New York in August, led to a fragile consensus on the issues at stake. The linkage was examined in a number of ways, and it was agreed that the critical factor in reducing world military spending, now 20 times greater than development assistance, is enhanced security in all its aspects, both military and non-military.

The Conference adopted an "action programme" which commits governments to "consider" such measures as reducing