

The other development is the continuing change from a bipolar to a multipolar world, with the rise of other power centres. With this has gone a relative decline of US hegemony, an accompanying shift in the balance of power within the Atlantic community and a consequent change in the nature of the relationship between North America and Europe. It has for some time been an anomaly that a Europe which can compete economically with the United States and follow an independent foreign policy line should remain so dependent on the United States for its defence. Now the elimination of intermediate-range nuclear missiles, the anticipated reduction of strategic nuclear missiles and the possibility of significant cuts in conventional forces all presage a gradual reduction in the US presence in Europe and are thereby forcing the Europeans to come to grips with the organization of their own defence. There is renewed talk of building a "European pillar" within the Atlantic Alliance, based in the first instance on closer Franco-German military cooperation.

These developments could have profound implications for Canada. While the emerging detente between the superpowers is to be welcomed, it would not be in Canada's interest if it were to lead to a weakening of cohesion in the Atlantic Alliance, or to divisive differences over NATO strategy. Canada has as much as any ally to lose from a breakdown in transatlantic cooperation, for it would tend to isolate Canada in North America and thus increase our dependence on the United States still more. We should therefore encourage closer European cooperation but within a more reciprocal transatlantic partnership which recognizes that NATO is for the defence of North America as well as Europe. We should also do what we can, working both bilaterally and with like-minded allies in NATO, to help manage East-West relations, since those relations are too important to be left to the superpowers. NATO needs a long-term strategy and Canada could