

adopting a more forthcoming stance on force reductions.

The Ministers agreed that further clarification is needed to establish if enough ground exists for negotiations to start. Ministers agreed that their governments would continue to intensify explorations with the nations of Eastern Europe on a bilateral basis. They also agreed that Deputy Foreign Ministers or other senior officials should meet in Brussels at an early date to review the results of the exploratory contacts and to consult on the substantive and procedural approaches to M.B.F.R. Canada supported these moves and called for more direct action. In response to a Canadian proposal Ministers expressed their willingness to appoint at the appropriate time a representative or representatives to conduct further exploratory talks with the Soviet Union and other interested governments. Let us hope that the response from the Soviet Union and its allies will show an intention to negotiate actively and without delay on this issue of vital importance to security and stability in Europe.

I took advantage of my presence at the meeting to have bilateral talks with some of my colleagues from member nations. Of special interest to the House will be the frank and forthright talk I had with Mr. Patricio,