



to ensure every new idea and proposal for international peace and security is accorded a full, sympathetic and urgent hearing.

When we chose Halifax to host the meeting of the Atlantic Council, the charm of the city and of this part of the country were certainly not the least of our reasons.

But we wished also to signify how deeply rooted in Europe Canadians remain, and how great an affinity we continue to feel for the Atlantic Community.

This Atlantic port, closer to the shores of Europe than to our own West Coast, symbolizes the enduring link between the Old World and the New. Since the days of Leif Eriksen, John Cabot and Jacques Cartier, Europeans have come to these shores, and to this harbour, in search of safe haven and fortune.

And more recently, Halifax anchored the lifeline which sustained allied forces in Europe in two world wars. From this point, too, Canadians sailed to Murmansk, or died en route, maintaining the 'northern connection' with the Soviet Union.

In brief, when we welcome you in Halifax, we are asserting the community of interest we share with you; we also hope to remind you of the important contribution made to the Alliance by Canada.

Our military presence in Europe, and the commitment we have made to the reinforcement of Europe in time of crisis, are unique for a people so geographically remote from Europe, who also have security interests in the North and in Asia.

But a long time ago, Canadians judged that our common civilization made the security of Europe indistinguishable from that of North America. And ever since, Canadian defence policy has had two priorities — holding the line in Europe, and defending the North American continent.

We all have a duty to fulfil, each in our own way. We all place a high premium on peace. We must all do our part to see it is maintained."

## **NATO Issues Statements on East-West Relations and Conventional Arms Control at Halifax Meeting**

*At the conclusion of the North Atlantic Council Ministerial Meeting in Halifax, the Council issued two statements, one dealing with NATO's approach to East-West relations and the other with conventional arms control. Following is the text of those statements.*

"At Halifax, we have reviewed all aspects of East-West relations. We conclude that obstacles to agreement, however serious, should not prevent both sides from building on areas of common interest. We remain ready to co-operate where common ground exists. We will continue our efforts to narrow differences elsewhere.

We remain united in our resolve to maintain adequate forces and to seek a more constructive relationship with the countries of the East. However, the conventional imbalance in Europe and the sustained build-up and modernization of all categories of Soviet military power continue to be of concern. In order to preserve peace and to prevent any kind

of war, we will maintain the Alliance's strategy of deterrence.

We are determined to pursue our efforts for progress in arms control and disarmament. We aim at a lower and more balanced level of armaments. We support US efforts to achieve deep reductions in Soviet and US nuclear forces. We seek a treaty totally eliminating chemical weapons. Reductions in conventional forces are also crucial in order to correct the present conventional imbalance between the Alliance and the Warsaw Pact. Beyond this, we aim at conventional stability throughout Europe. We have today made a separate statement on conventional arms control.

In all negotiating fora in which they are engaged, the participating Allies have presented detailed proposals directed at enhancing stability and security. We now await an equally constructive response at the negotiating table from the Soviet Union and the other members of the Warsaw Pact. Public statements alone are not enough.



*NATO representatives at a reception in Halifax prior to opening of Foreign Ministers meeting. Left to right: Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs; Lord Carrington, NATO Secretary-General; Sir Geoffrey Howe, British Foreign Secretary; and Vahit Halefoglul, Foreign Minister of Turkey.*

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