

By reaffirming the internal integrity of the alliance at the summit, we can in the future expand our field of activity and enhance security throughout our region. But how will we go about doing this?

To begin with, we must firmly renew our support for the work of the United Nations and the CSCE, both of which are intensely involved in our region's co-operative security program. "Support" is an appropriate term here, because we seek not to compete with these organizations, but to show our willingness to help by making the expertise and strengths of NATO available to them. I adhere fully to the initiatives undertaken to enhance these ties.

Peacekeeping is a fundamental instrument in preventing conflicts and managing crises. In peacekeeping, military forces co-operate directly with civilians to promote peace and security. Thus, it is quite natural that the alliance provides military forces for this purpose. Besides making our contribution, based on an internal consensus as to the concept, doctrine and style of the operations, we must seek the participation of our geographical neighbours in this undertaking.

From this point of view, Canada subscribes to the Partnership for Peace proposal and believes that it will be a way of stressing the peacekeeping element of our work plan to the North Atlantic Co-operation Council.

As one of the initial proponents of the North Atlantic Co-operation Council (NACC), Canada strongly supports continuation of focussed co-operation with our NACC partners. In our view, this co-operation should build on NATO's own strengths. Thus, we urge that NACC concentrate on areas of co-operation such as peacekeeping, civilian-military relations, defence planning, and arms control and non-proliferation. Such a concentration will, in addition to building on our strengths, facilitate our ability to make best use of available resources.

This inevitably brings us to the issue of NATO expansion. I can be very succinct on this topic. We do not believe that we are properly prepared for expansion. But we do strongly believe that we must give a clear political message of our willingness to do so in the future. Today and tomorrow, we should set the stage for a summit statement to that end, citing a number of considerations (political, economic, military and social), which define our alliance as being central to that expansion. Decisions in the future based on those considerations will be intensely political in nature and, at this point, we should therefore avoid prejudging them.