

So too is the progress registered on eliminating chemical weapons, including the exchange of data on stocks. We strongly welcome President Bush's offer to reduce stockpiles to less than twenty percent of current levels while efforts continue in Geneva to negotiate a chemical weapons Convention.

Canada also endorses the US and Soviet agreement to explore an Open Skies arrangement between NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Such an arrangement would be daring in its simplicity, yet pathbreaking in its consequences; an agreement that the aircraft of each member of both Alliances could enter the airspace of the other Alliance subject only to basic air safety regulations. This would increase the assurance of every Member that military activities were not becoming preparations for surprise attack.

From the beginning, we have urged the United States to move forward with this visionary proposal, and to make it an Alliance-to-Alliance arrangement.

An Open Skies agreement would be a compelling symbol of the new East-West relationship. It would build confidence and serve as a useful vehicle for the verification of other agreements, including an eventual agreement on conventional forces in Europe.

We are prepared to go beyond moral support. On Sunday, after consultations among NATO and the Warsaw Pact, Prime Minister Mulroney announced Canada's offer to host an Inter-Alliance Conference, as early as November, in order to explore the possibilities of a formal agreement on Open Skies.

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It is of fundamental importance to deepen and widen East-West relations.

A stable structure of peace cannot endure if its only component is concurrence on arms control, no matter how far-reaching that Agreement is.

Enduring peace requires understanding, a sense of shared problems and a shared stake in the future. Above all, it demands a sense on each side that the survival of the other is in its own best interest. What is required is agreement not only on the avoidance of war but also on the advantages of peace.

Therefore we welcome and encourage the broadening dialogue on regional, economic, social and environmental matters.