

A nation cannot ignore these factors, in any of its regions, and consider itself truly secure. The multi-dimensional approach taken by the organizers of this conference recognizes these relationships and I hope will promote a balanced debate on the choices for peace and security.

For my part, let me say a few words about security, defence and arms control. The security of the Arctic is inseparable from that of Canada as a whole. The threat does not originate in the Arctic, and its solution does not lie there. It lies in the resolution of East-West tensions.

We cannot regard the security of our Arctic in isolation from our national security

Let me look for a moment at the East-West relationship, which is unquestionably in a state of flux. Its fundamental nature is changing — we hope for the better.

There is no doubt that the changes we have seen in the Soviet Union — in the field of human rights; in declarations about, and changes in, foreign policy; and in the unilateral commitment to disarmament — are all positive developments. In responding to these changes, we must ask ourselves how far will they go? And how long will they last?

Neither of these questions, of course, have definitive answers. A process that is so volatile can change dramatically in a very short time. Our responses must be crafted to benefit fully from the progress that is made while protecting us from reversals which could result and threaten our security. This is not an easy challenge and it must be met with imagination and prudence.

I have just returned from Vienna, where I represented Canada at the opening of the new Negotiations on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. I sensed that the assembled Ministers from NATO, the Warsaw Pact and neutral and non-aligned European nations shared an awareness that we have an opportunity now, which we may not

have again, to reduce the level of conventional armed confrontation on the fault line of East-West relations.

The results we achieve through these negotiations will set the tone of the East-West relationship for the next generation. Should we fail to act constructively and with patience and determination, the talks could suffer the paralysis experienced in negotiations of the early eighties. In that event, our security will continue to be threatened by the presence of large imbalances in conventional forces in Europe in favour of the Warsaw Pact.

But never before have the prospects for a mutually beneficial, verifiable agreement been so bright — an agreement that would eliminate the asymmetries in stationed forces and severely reduce the potential for mounting surprise attacks or large-scale offensive operations.

Can you imagine what a different world it would be if the confrontation in Europe was contained and defused? What better impetus for future arms control could there be than a successful completion of a verifiable agreement to this end?

As we stand on the threshold of these negotiations on conventional armed forces in Europe, we can also be optimistic that the START talks between the Soviet Union and the United States, aimed at a mutual reduction of fifty per cent in strategic systems, will gain momentum as the year unfolds. There is also hope that good progress will be made toward a treaty to ban chemical warfare.

Indeed, this would appear to be an occasion in the course of East-West relations when the interests of both sides coincide. A shared interest exists in reducing the size of armed forces and siphoning resources from the defence to the civilian sides of the respective economies. We must not let such a chance slip through our fingers. I had the opportunity to convey Canada's desire for progress toward a peaceful, less confrontational world to Mr. Shevardnadze and other foreign ministers in Vienna last week.

Over the next two days, as you explore the choices for peace and secu-

urity in the Arctic, I know that you will approach these issues critically and seriously. And I hope that you will agree with me that peace, security and freedom are not alternatives or add-on options — they are integral parts of a whole. An insecure people are not at peace, and peace without freedom is a hollow condition.

We cannot regard the security of our Arctic in isolation from our national security, and we cannot regard Canadian security in isolation from the security of both East and West.

Peace, security and freedom are the aims of the Government of Canada as surely as they are the aims of the many groups, associations and individuals here today — let us all work together to build a lasting peace and let our legacy to future generations be a true north, truly strong and free." □

North Atlantic Council Declaration

The following is the press communiqué issued by the Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Brussels, May 29-30, 1989.

NATO's 40 years of Success

As our Alliance celebrates its 40th Anniversary, we measure its achievements with pride. Founded in troubled times to safeguard our security, it has withstood the test of four decades, and has allowed our countries to enjoy in freedom one of the longest periods of peace and prosperity in their history. The Alliance has been a fundamental element of stability and cooperation. These are the fruits of a partnership based on enduring common values and interests, and on unity of purpose.

Our meeting takes place at a juncture of unprecedented change and opportunities. This is a time to look ahead, to chart the course of our Alliance and to set our agenda for the future.