

Let me turn now to our relations with the two superpowers. We are the next-door neighbour of both, and the strong ally of the United States. When I met Mr. Gromyko in Moscow in 1985 - where he reminded me that he had worked with every Canadian Foreign Minister since Louis St. Laurent - I began my conversations by saying the Soviets should have no illusion about the depth of Canada's commitment to personal freedom and genuine democracy. In the contest over freedom, Canada is not neutral. Nor do we isolate ourselves on this continent. We have defended democratic values before, and we defend them now, in close and formal partnership with our allies in the United States, and our allies on the first line of defence, in western Europe.

There is a sentimental notion that Canada could advance the cause of peace and freedom by pulling out of Europe. That is naive and foolish. Our commitment to Europe, including through NATO, contributes significantly to stability on that continent, and is one of the factors which has led the Soviet Union to conclude that it must negotiate because it cannot divide the west. For Canada to pull out of NATO would among other things, jeopardize whatever prospect exists for agreement on arms control. For most of the last decade, Soviet policy sought to create disunity in Europe. That policy failed, and was replaced by a willingness to negotiate. This Government of Canada does not propose to make the world more dangerous by breaking the unity of the west, and thus tempting the Soviet Union to easier options than negotiation. Indeed, as Perrin Beatty's White Paper makes clear, we intend to modernize our capacity to meet our Alliance and Atlantic commitments.

At the same time, we will continue to encourage the Soviet Union towards the reforms which Mr. Gorbachev espouses. There has been some real movement within the Soviet Union, on questions like family reunification, and it is important for countries like Canada to encourage real reforms. I was the first Canadian Foreign Minister in twelve years to visit Moscow. The Prime Minister maintains a regular contact with General Secretary Gorbachev. Our countries are working together on northern projects, and in other areas where we have common interests, and we encourage joint economic ventures between Soviets and Canadians. Our active alliance with the United States may help us improve the contact between the superpowers, in the same way as it has given us access to positions the Americans take to the Geneva negotiations. As a neighbour to both, as a society committed to freedom, and serious about peace, we will take every practical step to increase understanding and cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union.