

and men could survive the changes that have taken place over the past 25 years without some common thread, some intricate link binding its members. Across the street from where we are gathered now is a building that symbolizes to all Canadians the true nature of our democratic process. I think it particularly appropriate that, when the foreign ministers of the NATO allies gathered recently in Ottawa, they were welcomed by my Prime Minister in that building. If there is an ingredient, a common link, a uniting thread that is prized by each of the members of our community of nations, it is the structure of freedom that such buildings symbolize: liberty of the individual, an understanding of our diversities and a belief in the necessity of the preservation of peace. If the vitality of this community is to be maintained, it will be because our organization, in spite of some failings, has succeeded in reflecting, in its policies and in its actions, the desires and aspirations of all men to reach a common understanding through use of words and not arms, through co-operation and not confrontation.

The tangible expression of these ideals is manifest not only in the forces we maintain for collective defence and security. Canadians have always attached importance to the North Atlantic Council as a forum for systematic consultation amongst close friends on a wide variety of questions of mutual interest. The exchange of views with 14 of our closest friends has, I am sure, been of benefit to us all. Eighteen years ago a report on non-military co-operation in NATO was produced by three distinguished statesmen, including the late Prime Minister of Canada, Lester B. Pearson. This report, which has come to be known as that of the "Three Wise Men", is indicative of a sensitivity to these broader dimensions of the Alliance that is more evident today than at any other time in our history. There is reason for satisfaction that this report provided, perhaps, the basic impetus that has guided us along the path of *détente*.

In our view, co-operation in NATO can extend, and has in fact extended, beyond the security and political fields with which the Alliance is principally identified. This was amply demonstrated in Ottawa last year during the plenary meeting held here of NATO's Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society, and it will be demonstrated again in a few weeks time when the NATO Science Committee meets in this very chamber. In matters of science, technology and the environment, the Alliance has provided opportunities for an exchange of knowledge and expertise that has proved beneficial to all mankind.