

address the problem of excessive build-ups of conventional arms by ensuring transparency and restraint. Several of our leaders have recently proposed arms control and non-proliferation initiatives, including for the Middle East. These initiatives reflect our commitment to the goals described above.

8. The Gulf conflict confirmed the importance of intra-Alliance consultations and information-sharing, which helped to reinforce political solidarity among Allies throughout the crisis. The collective expression of support for the Ally facing a direct threat demonstrated our resolve to stand by our commitments under Article V of the Washington Treaty and helped to deter a further expansion of hostilities. Although NATO itself was not involved in the Gulf War, the long practice of cooperation, common procedures, collective defence arrangements and infrastructure developed by NATO provided valuable assistance to those Allies that chose to make use of them in their respective efforts in support of the UN Security Council resolutions on the Gulf.

9. Looking to the future, we believe that just and lasting solutions to the problems of the Gulf and the Middle East are urgently needed. We thus support current efforts for comprehensive negotiated settlements to the problems of that region.

10. The Gulf crisis underlined that, in an interdependent world that is increasingly affected by technological advances, we must be prepared to address other unpredictable developments that are beyond the focus of traditional Alliance concerns, but that can have direct implications for our security. Now more than ever, worldwide developments which affect our security interests are legitimate matters for consultation and, where appropriate, coordination among us. We will thus increasingly need to address broader issues and new global challenges. We will seek to do so in our consultations and in the appropriate multilateral fora, in the widest possible cooperation with other states.

11. We express our deep appreciation for the gracious hospitality extended to us by Her Majesty the Queen and the Government of Denmark. ■



*SSEA Barbara McDougall with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas at the NATO foreign ministers' meeting in Copenhagen in June.*

## **NATO's Core Security Functions**

*The following statement was issued by NATO foreign ministers on June 7.*

### **The purpose of the Alliance**

1. NATO's essential purpose...is to safeguard the freedom and security of all its members by political and military means in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter. Based on common values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, the Alliance has worked since its inception for the establishment of a just and lasting peaceful order in Europe. This Alliance objective remains unchanged.

### **The nature of the Alliance**

2. NATO embodies the transatlantic link by which the security of North America is permanently tied to the security of Europe. It is the practical expression of effective collective effort among its members in support of their common interests.

3. The fundamental operating principle of the Alliance is that of common commitment and mutual cooperation among sovereign states in support of the indivisibility of security for all of its members. Solidarity within the Alliance, given substance and effect by NATO's daily work in both the political and military spheres, ensures that no single Ally is forced to rely upon its own national efforts alone in dealing with basic security challenges. Without depriving member states of their right and duty to assume their sovereign responsibilities in the field of defence, the Alliance enables them through collective effort to enhance their ability to realize their essential national security objectives.

4. The resulting sense of equal security amongst the members of the Alliance, regardless of differences in their circumstances or in their national military capabilities relative to each other, contributes to overall stability within Europe and thus to the creation of conditions conducive to increased cooperation both among Alliance members and with others. It is on this basis that members of the Alliance, together with other nations, are able to pursue the development of cooperative structures of security for a Europe whole and free.

### **The fundamental tasks of the Alliance**

5. The means by which the Alliance pursues its security policy to preserve the peace will continue to include the maintenance of a military capability sufficient to prevent