

deal with matters as varied as civil emergency planning, political developments outside NATO, defence planning, analysis of economic relations between East and West, armaments co-operation, as well as scientific and environmental co-operation.

### NATO's Role in East/West Relations

NATO's basic principles, its strength of purpose, and solidarity deserve considerable credit for helping to defer conflict in Europe and to resolve East/West differences. Indeed, after nearly four decades, NATO can be said to be the most successful example of collective defence in European history.

In 1967, the Harmel Report on "The Future Tasks of the Alliance", unanimously endorsed by NATO members, concluded that NATO continues to have two main functions: deterrence of conflict and defence against aggression, should it occur; and the pursuit of progress towards a more stable East/West relationship. This two-track approach to East-West relations -- combining steadfastness and solidarity on the one hand, and an open-minded and positive approach to negotiation on the other -- has made possible the INF agreement, signed in Washington, D.C. on December 8, 1987.

To deter and defend against potential aggressors, NATO Allies co-ordinate their defensive arrangements through collective planning. At the same time, to promote a better understanding of political developments and of ways of reducing international tensions, the Allies exchange information and views on political trends and developments which may affect the interests of the Alliance, so that such information and views can be taken into account by member nations in the formulation of national policies. The Council is the principal forum for such discussions, and while it focusses primarily on political and economic developments in East-West relations, it also examines disarmament and arms control issues, and reviews relevant trends in other areas of the world.

### The Other Side of NATO: Non-Military Co-operation

Over the years, NATO has developed a series of programmes to stimulate co-operation among its members on issues of common interest. All of them draw their inspiration from the "Canadian Article" on Non-Military Co-operation in NATO (Article 2 of the North Atlantic Treaty). The 1956 "Report of the Three Wise Men on non-military co-operation in NATO" concluded that NATO needed to demonstrate that it is more than a military alliance and to give further expression to the