

At the NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting in Lisbon the Alliance concentrated on the very real movement towards détente between East and West that was foreseen at the December meeting in Brussels. This return upon many years' careful planning, and probing of Soviet intentions, is bringing a new sense of direction to the Alliance, away from confrontation and toward negotiation. As in Washington later, I had the sense of participation in an historic event.

Progress in the four power talks on Berlin enabled ministers to express their hope that before their next meeting in December those negotiations might have reached a stage where multilateral conversations leading toward a security Conference could begin. This confirms the importance the Alliance attaches to a satisfactory outcome of the Berlin talks, to create the necessary climate for the resolution of wider European problems.

The principal issue at the Meeting was the Alliance's proposal for mutual balanced force reductions. After some years of silence recently there have been strong indications of Soviet interest. Mr. Brezhnev's speech in Tiflis in April, the conversations the Prime Minister had with Soviet leaders in Moscow and Mr. Brezhnev's speech of last Friday strongly suggest that the Soviet Union is