

For its part, the Canadian Government has been increasing its spending on capital equipment for the Canadian Armed Forces. We are, for example, introducing the CF-18 aircraft for our Forces in both Canada and Europe, and have just ordered six new frigates. We joined with our allies in June in reaffirming the "two-track" decision under which NATO will begin the deployment at the end of this year of new intermediate-range nuclear missiles to counter the Soviet SS-20 missiles, if concrete results cannot be reached in the negotiations in Geneva. As a contribution to NATO's deterrent posture, the Canadian Government has agreed to the testing in this country of the USA air-launched cruise missile.

NATO governments have concluded, in the face of the Soviet Union's increasingly powerful Armed Forces, that we must strengthen our own defence capabilities. At the same time, we are convinced that all countries - East and West - could be more secure with balanced, verifiable arms control agreements, at lower levels of armaments, than we would be with an uncontrolled arms race. Last week's event has altered the climate and has had the effect of increasing tensions among our people. However this event does not alter our conclusion on our security and the need for reduced armaments. We have entered into disarmament and arms control talks because we think they are in our national and international interests, and not as a favour to the Soviet Union. However, recent Soviet behaviour will undoubtedly affect the atmosphere in which the talks are conducted. Public confidence in Soviet willingness to abide by the rules of law or international agreements and to act prudently in the exercise of its military capabilities has been badly shaken. Nonetheless, despite these events, we in the West must continue to press ahead with the negotiations upon which we have embarked.

At the Williamsburg Summit, the leaders of the seven major industrialized nations pledged themselves to "devote our full political resources to reducing the threat of war". The most critical of the arms control negotiations are being carried on directly between the USA and the Soviet Union, in the strategic arms reduction talks and the intermediate-range nuclear force talks in Geneva. Particularly in the case of the INF talks, the United States has consulted its allies closely in formulating its position and carrying out the negotiations. In addition, there are other negotiations in which a wider group of nations are more directly involved. In these discussions, Canada attaches particular importance to the negotiation of a comprehensive test ban treaty, a chemical weapons convention, a treaty to