

In other words, while there has been undoubted progress in Europe, we have not reached the point where the West can safely dispense with NATO's military strength for defence against aggression.

This does not mean that NATO countries will not be prepared to join the countries of the Warsaw Pact in measures calculated to reduce tension further, in any way that could bring about a mutual reduction of forces. In this and in other ways, NATO can make an important contribution to the growth of confidence necessary to reach a mutually agreeable settlement in Europe. This will help in "building bridges to the East".

How do we see Canada's role?

First - Canada will continue to work through NATO and through every other possible channel, bilateral or multilateral, for progress towards détente in Europe.

Second - Canada will contribute its fair share to NATO's collective defence needs, given that the security of Europe contributes to the security of Canada. If in this way we can help to maintain stability in the Atlantic region, it is surely to our advantage to do so.

Third - Canada has persistently advocated that the members of NATO examine the future purposes and structure of the Organization. We are in the midst of that examination now.

Fourth - The precise nature of our military commitment is not fixed. It will vary according to changing military requirements, to the contributions of our partners, to what we can best and most economically contribute. The level of forces contributed to NATO has traditionally been a matter for collective rather than unilateral decision. We continue to believe that individual contributions to the military strength of NATO should be the subject of consultation among the members of the alliance.

But, whatever the shorter-term requirements and patterns, the long-term goal in NATO remains to reach a settlement between East and West such that NATO, in its military aspect, may no longer be essential to our security.

Another security issue is the question of renewing NORAD (or the North American Aid Defence Agreement) in 1968. The Government is now studying the future of NORAD. There is one point which should be emphasized now because it is apparently not widely understood -- that is, that NORAD is an air defence arrangement, which does not now - nor would its renewal - in any way entail or imply a commitment by Canada to accept or participate in any American anti-ballistic-missile system which might be deployed for space defence at some future date. We hope, of course, that the United States will succeed in persuading the U.S.S.R. to accept a moratorium on ABM deployment, so that the question of North American arrangements will not arise.

Recently, there has been some confused criticism of the conception of peace-keeping and Canada's role in United Nations activities in this field. The position of the Canadian Government on this question is clear -- we recognize that peace-keeping and efforts at "peace-making" should be pursued