

or nostalgia, and certainly not for reasons of charity. It is not only their prosperity which is at stake, it is ours. It is not only their security, it is ours.

While our interests in Europe remain strong, the means by which we pursue those interests must change radically. They must change to reflect the new security framework now in evolution; they must change to reflect the growing power and unity of Western Europe; and they must change to reflect the particular advantages and assets of Canada.

The primary Canadian bridge to Europe has been our contribution to the North Atlantic Alliance. That contribution has involved thousands of Canadian troops on the ground in Germany, troops whose lives have been put on the line daily in the defence of freedom. In a real sense, that contribution of Canadian lives can have no substitute and no parallel.

That military contribution is bound to decline. It will not be a decline which we regret, because it will be a product of the long-sought reduction in East-West tensions which is the result of the new Soviet foreign policy, the dissolution of Soviet control over Eastern Europe and the unilateral and negotiated reductions in conventional and nuclear forces. At long last, we are moving from a partial and artificial peace to a comprehensive, more natural peace, a peace where intentions are becoming benign and capabilities are being reduced to the point where surprise attack is no longer possible.

This process and this reality can only be applauded. What has begun must continue and a firm foundation must be built for a structure of lasting security at the lowest possible level of military forces, conventional and nuclear. That will not come suddenly or easily, but it is now a realistic goal.

It is a seeming paradox that NATO's very success requires the Alliance to renew itself. But in fact, that is easy to understand. An organization whose primary role has been to defend against plausible aggression must revise its role when that aggression becomes less plausible. It is only natural in these circumstances for NATO to assume a more political role, a role which would reflect both the new European reality and a declining military mission.

That is a change which Canada fully supports and which meets Canadian interests. But it is not enough to simply declare that NATO must become more political. NATO will only become a forum for increased dialogue if it is used for that purpose by all its members, European and North American. NATO cannot be declared more political; it must be made more political.