

why the development of relations between China and the West should take place at the expense of relations with other states or of our commitment to a policy of détente.

(b) Security

In May 1978 at the Washington Summit the NATO Governments were able, in the light of a fresh study of trends in East-West relations, to endorse a general long-term programme designed to improve the deterrence and defence posture of NATO during the 1980's. Canada has demonstrated its continued commitment to the Alliance, in spite of restraints in Government spending, by participating in collective defence undertakings and by maintaining programmes of capital expenditure to acquire new equipment for the Canadian Forces including those assigned to NATO roles. For example, in 1978 Canada joined with other NATO partners in the agreement to acquire and operate the Airborne Early Warning and Control System. The current five-year term of the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD) Agreement expires in May 1980. Discussions regarding renewal will take place shortly.

(c) Arms Control and Disarmament

The Prime Minister, speaking to the UN Special Session on Disarmament, outlined a "strategy of suffocation" of the nuclear arms race. We anticipate some progress with the four elements of such a strategy; specifically with the comprehensive test ban and the ban on the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes (the two others were a ban on flight-testing of all new strategic delivery vehicles and an agreement to limit and then progressively to reduce military spending on new strategic nuclear weapons systems). As the result of a Canadian initiative at the last General Assembly we expect the new Committee on Disarmament to discuss at the appropriate time the fissionable material production ban. 1979 will be a critical year for the future of strategic arms control between the United States and the Soviet Union. Although Canada does not participate in SALT, we, and our NATO allies, have been kept closely informed about these talks by the United States through consultation in the North Atlantic Council. If, as we very much hope will be the case, SALT II is successfully concluded and ratified this year, it will be an important step forward in the task of restraining the strategic nuclear confrontation and of developing a more stable basis for maintaining peace and security.