

overcome its difficulties for the common good. It is in that conviction that we are pursuing our objective of establishing a contractual link with the European Community. The negotiation of a framework agreement is making good progress, and we are grateful for the consistent and helpful support we have received from the Federal Republic of Germany.

But Canada does not see its future relations with Europe exclusively in terms of the Canada/Community link. We intend to continue developing our bilateral relations with the member countries of the community in a parallel and mutually reinforcing way. In this context, Canada attaches a high priority to its relations with the Federal Republic of Germany. This relationship is marked by programmes of co-operation developed under inter-governmental agreements in areas such as cultural relations, and science and technology. It is also reflected in significant and growing trade, investment and industrial co-operation as well as increasingly close co-operation in the defence field.

The presence of Canadian land and air forces stationed in the Federal Republic of Germany, whom I will be visiting tomorrow, and of German land forces training in Canada, contributes both to the common defence and to our bilateral understanding. Several months ago, the Canadian Government decided, after a thorough review of the Canadian defence programme, to maintain the numerical strength of our forces in this country and to improve their operational capability. As you know, sir, we are now in discussion with the Federal German authorities about the acquisition of a new main battle tank for these forces.

Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany are partners not only in Western defence but also in the East/West dialogue, where we aim to draw the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe into a more civilized, open and constructive relationship with the West. Indeed, we are both deeply convinced that defence and détente must go hand in hand; that either without the other, whatever the labels used to describe them, would sooner or later spell disaster.

We are aware that this conviction is of particular importance to the Federal Republic, with its special ties with Berlin which has been aptly described as "the touchstone of détente". But none of us can afford to take either defence or détente for granted; they require constant attention, a clear and realistic definition of our objectives, and a steady and consistent effort to achieve them over the long haul. I am glad to note that this approach was endorsed by the recent NATO meeting in Oslo.

It is premature at this point to make a final judgement about the results of détente, which should be regarded as an evolutionary process. On the other hand, it is not too soon to be clear in our own mind about the objectives of détente