

In this situation the long-standing Canadian objective of a total ban needs to be re-considered. It is such an objective likely to facilitate or impede agreement on interim steps which reduce the size and number of testas. In any case, it will be necessary to gather greater support for the international verification arrangements which would facilitate an early ban on all but the smallest nuclear explosions, while at the same time seeking to persuade the United States to accept them.

d) Force Reductions in Europe

Progress in arms control at the nuclear level has evoked renewed interest in the conventional forces arrayed on both sides in Western Europe. Reducing nuclear armaments, not surprisingly, has led NATO commanders to call for greater commitments by the Allies to match the conventional force of the Warsaw Pact countries. Although the conventional force balance may require increased levels of forces in Europe, as the Government has recognized, there are signs of another approach which holds out greater hope than at any time in the past decade.

In the flurry of Soviet pronouncements on arms control and security in Europe, two proposals stand out. First, Gorbachev has recognized that conventional arms reductions may need to be asymmetrical, and Soviet spokesmen have stated that Soviet tank armies might be a prime candidate for such reductions. Second, the Soviets have indicated a willingness to accept wide-ranging measures to verify an arms reduction agreement.

As the two sides move towards a new round of talks, these prospective changes in the Soviet approach offer both