

We also share a profound interest in arms control and disarmament. Our two countries have much in common as middle powers seeking to promote and construct a broadly based environment of stability and cooperation in Europe. Our common interests have extended to global peace and security where Canadians and Poles continue to work regularly side by side in various U.N. peacekeeping operations, most recently in Namibia and on the Iran-Iraq border.

Positive change in the Soviet Union, in Eastern Europe and between East and West has become almost commonplace in the last several years. We have seen landmark agreements achieved in arms control and in human rights. There has been substantial progress in trade and in economic cooperation. Positive influence has been brought to bear on regional conflicts in many parts of the world. To be sure there is much yet to be accomplished but a good start has been made.

Against the background of the change in Eastern Europe and in East-West relations, Poland has taken the lead in moving towards democratization and the recognition of social and political pluralism. The legalization, in April, of solidarity and other unions together with the upcoming elections in June should result in the most representative form of Government in Eastern Europe. These are steps which Canada strongly supports and applauds. We look forward with great interest to the results of your elections and to further developments in Poland.

At the same time, we understand the economic challenge Poland faces today. The new and constructive political atmosphere brought by recent reforms in Poland points the way to more significant economic liberalization. We hope this trend will be reinforced by a new and generous Paris Club debt rescheduling, an IMF program and new World Bank lending.

We have many opportunities for further cooperation in trade and investment. A number of Canadian companies such as Pratt and Whitney, Hybrid Turkeys and Electrovert are already doing successful business with Poland. Tomorrow, a joint venture will be signed between McLean Brothers Fisheries and a Polish fishing company in Szczecin (Stetshin) - the first between companies of Poland and Canada under your latest joint venture legislation. That legislation opens an important door for practical, profitable cooperation between our two countries. Our government is mounting a small campaign to make more Canadian businesses aware of this new opportunity.