

indicate our satisfaction that some progress had been achieved and express the hope for further progress in the near future.

You will note that in the communiqué the member governments confirmed their readiness, as soon as talks on Berlin had reached a satisfactory conclusion, and in so far as other on-going talks were proceeding satisfactorily, to enter into multilateral talks to explore when it would be possible to convene a conference or series of conferences on security and co-operation in Europe.

The question of mutual and balanced force reductions is one NATO has been pursuing actively in recent years and is of particular interest to Canada. In Brussels the NATO ministers renewed their earlier invitation to interested states to hold exploratory talks on the possibility of negotiations on force reductions and indicated a readiness within this framework to examine different aspects of the question, including the idea of foreign force reductions which was publicly advanced by the Warsaw Pact countries last summer.

In the course of the foreign ministers' meeting, I expressed Canada's satisfaction with the results of the recent NATO-sponsored colloquium on oil spills, which recommended that the governments should work through IMCO to eliminate, by 1975 if possible, all intentional discharges of oil in the sea, as well as to minimize accidental spills. This could be a breakthrough in one area of maritime pollution, particularly since the undertaking involves countries representing a high proportion of the world's oil-carriers. It is an excellent example of NATO's ability to contribute in a practical way to the solution of problems of current concern to its members.

On the defence side, the decisions taken helped to place the respective roles of North America and Europe within the alliance on a more equitable basis and to ensure that, in the period of negotiation ahead, the alliance will be able to proceed with confidence.

Final Communiqué

1. The North Atlantic Council met in ministerial session at Brussels on 3rd and 5th December, 1970. Foreign, defence and finance ministers were present.
2. Ministers again stated that the political purpose of the alliance is the common search for peace through initiatives aiming at the relaxation of tension and the establishment of a just and lasting peaceful order in Europe, accompanied by appropriate security guarantees.
3. The Council received a statement from President Nixon which pledged that, given a similar approach by the other allies, the United States would maintain and improve its own forces in Europe and would not reduce them except in the context of reciprocal East-West action. Ministers expressed