

as a matter of priority, develop proposals for institutionalizing the role of the CSCE in the gradual development of a new European security system.

The revolutionary changes in the USSR and Eastern Europe require that the West should both act now to encourage and assist the process of change, and build up new all-European security arrangements, in which the United States and Canada should participate. Europe has entered a period of transition to a new epoch. The West must ensure that existing arrangements in the security, political and even economic fields, which continue to be useful at this time, should not be discarded until effective, new machinery is in place and working.

The UN and Regional Conflict

As part of its new policies, the USSR has played a constructive role in seeking to resolve a series of regional conflicts (for example Angola, Cambodia and Central America). Its readiness to provide military support to Vietnam, Ethiopia and Cuba is diminishing. Gorbachev has expressed strong support for the UN and has made proposals for strengthening the world organization. We believe that the West should give high priority to these proposals and consider specific measures to implement them, including ways to strengthen the capacity of the Secretary General to mediate conflicts.

Canada and the New European Order

At first sight, Canada might appear to have less opportunity to influence the course of events in East-West relations than do other members of the Atlantic Alliance, although its stake in the outcome of these events is just as great. Without the direct interests of the Europeans, or the military power of the Americans, Canada is at one remove from the reshaping of the continent. This very fact, however, may be considered an advantage. Old European rivalries persist and the United States must wrestle with the problem of converting both attitudes and hardware in a post-Cold War environment. Canadian judgements and initiatives could be especially welcome if the Alliance finds it difficult to reconcile competing perspectives of this kind.