

I would like to welcome you to Ottawa on behalf of the Government of Canada. We are honoured at having here so many distinguished political personalities and specialists on strategic studies. In view of your founder, Alastair Buchan's close associations with this country, it is particularly suitable that you have chosen Ottawa as the site for your Silver Jubilee Meeting. The way in which your Institute has expanded in prestige, influence and scope over the past twenty-five years is a tribute to Mr. Buchan's vision and ability.

Your choice of topics for this year's Conference - The Conduct of East-West Relations in the 1980s - has been given added urgency by the events of the past week. We have had a vivid reminder of the differences between Soviet and Western values, with the shooting down of the Korean civilian airliner by Soviet military aircraft. After a week of repeated representations, we have not received any satisfactory explanation of the circumstances of the tragedy or even a direct expression of sympathy or condolences. Earlier this summer, we had detected what we considered to be signs of Soviet interest in improving at least the atmosphere in which East-West relations are conducted. Now we have had a fresh reaffirmation of the obsessive priority the Soviet Union attaches to its military security, and its marked insensitivity to the legitimate concerns of other nations. I am amazed that the Soviet Foreign Minister could use the Madrid Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to reiterate in the starkest terms a total disregard for human life in the defence of what the Soviet Union considers to be its State interests.

This week will, therefore, be an appropriate occasion for analyzing, as your First Committee is doing, the balance of military power between East and West. In NATO, we have been preoccupied by the Soviet Union's actions and its growing military power. We have agreed on the need to strengthen NATO's conventional forces.