

We think the impasse over the relationship between a united Germany and NATO will only be resolved by the West wholeheartedly embracing the Soviet Union's long-term goal of participation leading to full membership in the European community, what Mr. Gorbachev has evocatively described as "the common European home." It is time to begin thinking of the USSR as ally, not adversary, and of constructing systems of cooperative security based on that central proposition. We are greatly encouraged that this is the basic direction in which negotiations are now beginning to move.

There are two tracks in the evolution of a cooperative security system, the reform of the existing alliances and the institutionalization of new pan-European structures. Concerning the alliances, we don't know at this point whether they will eventually disappear, merge or transmute into something entirely different. In any case, it is essential to begin building cooperative security relations between them. On the NATO side, we warmly welcome the observation made in a recent speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

"It is important that NATO become even more actively engaged in the dynamic security dialogue now emerging between East and West. Those security questions involve NATO's members and NATO's interests; the Alliance should turn outwards to embrace its old adversaries and new friends."

Mr. Clark also made a number of practical suggestions to give effect to a policy of cooperative security, including regular meetings between Soviet and NATO Foreign Ministers and the regular dialogue between the leaders of the alliance and the USSR. To these suggestions has been added a further proposal from the recent meeting of NATO foreign Ministers at Turnberry, Scotland, that the alliance sign a non-aggression treaty with the Warsaw Pact, in return for Soviet agreement that a united Germany be a member of NATO. It seems to us that such a proposal is desirable in any case and might be more persuasive as a stand-alone proposition.

Meanwhile, the recent Warsaw Pact meeting in Moscow pronounced an end to the notion of the west as the "ideological enemy" and has commenced serious study of transforming the pact into a democratic alliance to help stabilize Europe. In their statement, pact members spoke favourably of the possibility of "constructive cooperation" with NATO and appointed a commission to draw up proposals for altering the "character, functions and activities" of the pact. The significance of these developments is that the Warsaw Pact may have a more important role to play in the transition to a cooperative security system than has been commonly assumed. The countries of Eastern Europe may