

*Tel Aviv Airport Massacre*

ry talks in Helsinki to prepare for a conference on security and co-operation. The exact date on which the European countries, the United States and Canada will sit down to talk about a conference will have to be set by mutual agreement among the potential participants. With other NATO members, Canada will now move to engage other interested countries in planning for this phase.

I should emphasize that a decision to convoke a formal conference has not yet been taken. That decision will depend on the outcome of the preparatory talks. The aim of NATO countries at these talks will be to ensure that our proposals are fully considered and to establish that enough common ground exists among participants to warrant reasonable expectations that a conference will produce satisfactory results.

For example, we want to see more normal contacts and exchanges between countries of different political and social systems in Europe. To achieve this end, the conference should deal in a practical way with measures designed to contribute to the freer movement of people, information and ideas. I was not alone in underlining the importance of this consideration at our meeting last week.

On the military side, NATO Ministers were agreed that certain stabilization measures could usefully be discussed at a conference in order to create confidence on both sides.

In addition to a conference on security and co-operation in Europe, NATO Ministers devoted considerable attention to the question of mutual and balanced force reductions. Just as we have always considered that progress in East-West political détente must be measured in terms of practical results, especially on the Berlin problem, so we believe that any real improvement in security in Europe will remain illusory unless it is accompanied by some reduction in the concentration of military power in the area.

This is not to say that force reductions should be negotiated at a conference. It would be impossible in practical terms to carry out negotiations on such a complex matter among the 35 participants in a conference. Preparations for a conference and for mutual and balanced force reduction negotiations should, however, proceed as far as possible in parallel. In order that force reductions complement the political achievements of a security conference, talks on the two subjects should be concurrent but separate.

Unfortunately the explorations on mutual and balanced force reductions have not yet begun because of soviet unwillingness to receive Manlio Brosio, former Secretary General of NATO, as an explorer. More recently, however, the Soviet Union has expressed its willingness to explore procedures for negotiations on mutual and balanced force reductions. At the Bonn meeting NATO Ministers affirmed their support for multilateral explorations. The next step will be to find means of translating this idea into action. I suggested in Bonn that a group should be selected among NATO members to engage the Soviet Union and other interested countries in preliminary talks to seek sufficient agreement to bring about negotiations. Considerable interest was shown in the Canadian idea at the meeting and we hope Alliance mem-

[Mr. Sharp.]

bers can reach accord on some form of group approach in the near future.

The atmosphere in Bonn was very much influenced by the promising progress recently made in the broad negotiating process by which we hope to resolve the underlying causes of tension, including the division of Germany. NATO countries responded by expressing their intention to pursue the opportunities for progress on both preparations for a conference and explorations for mutual and balanced force reductions. We should have no illusions about the difficulties that lie ahead. In many ways the task which now faces us is the most difficult of all. We shall have to combine continued defence preparedness with pursuit of détente, Alliance solidarity with willingness to seek accommodation with the other side, and firmness on basic principles with flexibility on means.

Canada has direct and identifiable interests in both security and co-operation in Europe. That is why we have supported Alliance policies in defence and détente in the past and why we intend to work with our NATO allies in the continued search for improved East-West relations through mutual and balanced force reductions and a conference on security and co-operation in Europe.

I should now like to table the communiqué issued after the meeting of the North Atlantic Alliance, and suggest, if the House agrees, that it be printed as an appendix to *Hansard*.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[*Editor's note: For communiqué referred to above, see appendix.*]

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister speaks for all of us when he underlines the horror we felt on learning of the senseless violence at the Tel Aviv airport. We share in his expression of sympathy to the family of Mrs. Subach. Surely it is not too much to ask in 1972 that innocent people be free to travel the world. Surely it is also obvious that violent acts of this sort only make the problems in the Middle East more difficult of solution.

I thank the minister for making available a copy of his statement on the meetings of the NATO council that he attended. He spoke about being at the geographic crossroads of Europe and at a crossroads in the evolution of East-West relations. I am sure we would agree that this is an important juncture. Indeed, President Nixon's visit to Moscow must have been underlined by the NATO council meeting, the SALT talks and so on. I am sure we are interested in the development of plans for a European security conference, although I suppose it is not too unfair to say that no one can accuse NATO or the Warsaw pact countries of moving with undue haste, since this has been very much an international topic for some years now.

The minister also mentioned the success that President Nixon had in achieving an agreement to curb the nuclear arms race. Here I was struck by the irony of the fact that France will later this year be testing nuclear devices in the Pacific area. Presumably France is now attending and participating in the meetings being held by the United