



SELECTED ARTICLES

NEWS AND VIEWS

LOOKING EAST

Excerpts of a policy speech by Foreign Secretary, Mr. Douglas Hurd, at the Future of Europe Trust, London, 25 April, 1994

"...The Central Europeans here today see the period since 1989 as a chance to establish sovereign, liberal democracies, to rejoin the mainstream of European history, and to determine your own future in the secure framework of Western institutions. You want to be certain that the old architecture of Communism is dead...

Let me spell out today the main Western objectives as we look east. We want to extend to Central Europe the security and prosperity which Western Europe has enjoyed for nearly fifty years. Creating a zone of stability will be good for Central Europe and good for Russia...

NATO

First, the Atlantic Alliance has been developing its relations with former adversaries. The North Atlantic Cooperation Council has provided us with a useful forum for discussion and action, but even at the end of last year a sense still pervaded the corridors of NATO that more could be done. That NATO needed a further general effort to adapt itself to new tasks in the new world.

The NATO Summit in January refuelled the Alliance. It launched the Partnership for Peace, which allows a wide range of states to draw their defence assets and practices closer together for cooperation peace-making. Partners will be able to improve their ability to work alongside NATO forces. We will encourage civilian control of the military, and transparency in defence budgeting.

Each partner is submitting to NATO a list of the military assets which it can bring to the partnership - troops, or aircraft, or ships - on which the Alliance will base a programme of cooperation, including joint exercises, planning and

training. The PFP opens a clear perspective of eventual NATO enlargement, but not necessarily for all partners. It will provide a proving ground for potential members.

Enlargement will proceed in its own time and under its own logic. Partners will need to take the time to prepare themselves militarily and politically for the strenuous demands of complete mutual commitment...

SECURITY RELATIONS WITH OTHER EUROPEAN ORGANIZATIONS

NATO may be the most important European security institution, but it is not the only one. Others, too, are busy weaving threads to bind and support friends in the east.

In the Western European Union - the defence bridge between the European Union and NATO - Britain has been among those most strongly supporting the new status of association to be offered to Central and Eastern Europeans. Our aim is to involve them as fully as possible in the day to day deliberations of the WEU Council and its subordinate bodies...

Behind these efforts lies the CSCE, the only security organization in which all the states of Europe participate, along with states from North America and Central Asia. The CSCE was helpful in ending the Cold War, in bringing reform to Russia and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and in developing a shared commitment to multi-party democracy. It continues in its efforts to promote security and prosperity, particularly through preventive diplomacy...

NUCLEAR

Along with those institutional efforts to reach out, there have been encouraging developments on nuclear issues. Negotiations for a Comprehensive Test Ban are under way in Geneva. Negotiations for a Convention to end the production of fissile material for explosive

purposes are in sight. Russia and the United States, and now Russia and Britain, have agreed to detarget all their strategic nuclear missiles. At the same time, Ukraine has agreed to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state as soon as possible. Once that happens, Britain has made it clear that Ukraine will benefit from our security assurances.

EUROPEAN UNION

Security is not just a matter of security institutions. It is also to do with stronger economies, and greater trading opportunities. In this, the European Union comes into its own.

The European Union is already establishing a network of agreements which, taken together, can powerfully reinforce prosperity throughout the region. European Agreements have been signed with six Central European countries and will soon be negotiated with the Baltic states and Slovenia. A Partnership and Cooperation Agreement has been initialled with Ukraine. Others are already under negotiation with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

These agreements are the essential framework for creating open trading relationships from the Atlantic to the Urals, with benefits for economic restructuring and political stability across the continent. Trade liberalisation is the key. Open markets open the way naturally to prosperity, and prosperity opens the way to genuine freedom.

The Europe Agreements contain a timetable of tariff reductions leading to free trade in industrial products within ten years. Virtually all Community barriers to imports of these goods from Europe Agreement countries will have disappeared by the beginning of 1995.

The Partnership and Cooperation Agreements have free trade as soon as economic conditions allow as one of