

and reaffirmed that general and complete disarmament under effective international control remained the best means of ensuring lasting peace and security. They noted with satisfaction the position taken by the Western powers at the Geneva Disarmament Conference in order to achieve this goal. The Council noted the progress toward closer co-operation in defence policy and welcomed confirmation by the United States that it will continue to make available the nuclear weapons necessary for NATO defence, concerting with its allies on basic plans and arrangements with regard to these weapons. In addition, both the British and United States Governments gave firm assurances that their strategic forces would continue to provide defence against threats to the Alliance beyond the capability of NATO committed forces to deal with. It was also decided to set up special procedures to enable all members of the Alliance to exchange information concerning the role of nuclear weapons in NATO defence. At their separate meeting, the Defence Ministers made a number of recommendations for improving co-operation in sharing within the Alliance the burden of research, development and production of military equipment. The Council reviewed the development of political consultation within the Alliance and noted the steady and encouraging progress made over the previous twelve months in deepening and developing the processes of consultation.

The annual Ministerial Meeting convened in Paris in December, attended by a Canadian Delegation led by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of National Defence. In reviewing the international situation, the sound and vigorous state of the alliance was noted. The Ministers agreed that recent attempts by the Soviet Union to tilt the balance of forces against the West by secretly stationing nuclear missiles in Cuba had brought the world to the verge of war and that this peril was only avoided by the firmness and restraint of the United States supported by the alliance and other free nations. The Ministers concluded that constant vigilance of purpose and a spirit of interdependence as well as a readiness to examine any reasonable possibility of reducing international tension must continue to guide the policies of the alliance and that it was a prerequisite of any progress toward equitable settlement of international issues that NATO should maintain its defensive strength. At the same time, the Ministers reaffirmed that general and complete disarmament under effective international control continued to be a question of major concern and they expressed hope that the Soviet attitude which has so far frustrated concrete agreement on any of the key questions at issue would change.

The Ministers agreed that it was necessary to increase the effectiveness of conventional forces. They further agreed that adequate and balanced forces, both nuclear and conventional, were necessary to provide the alliance with the widest possible range of response to whatever threat might be directed against its security. They recognized that a sustained effort will be required to provide and improve these forces. The Ministers invited the Permanent Council to review procedures in order to secure a closer alignment between NATO military requirements and national force plans as well as an equitable sharing of the common defence burden. At the invitation of the Canadian Government it was agreed to hold the next Ministerial Meeting in Ottawa in May 1963.

Permanent representatives of the member countries met between Ministerial Meetings to consider the international, political, economic and military developments of concern to the alliance, review the defence plans of members, deal with expenditures on commonly financed military installations (infrastructure), and study the measures required to provide peacetime readiness and civil defence. Military exercises were held to prove the readiness of the army, naval and air forces assigned to NATO commands.

**Canadian Contributions to NATO.**—Support for NATO during 1962 continued to be one of the foundations of Canadian foreign policy. As its contribution to the military strength of the alliance, Canada maintains an army brigade and an air division in Europe and supporting forces in Canada. It has assigned a substantial naval force to the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic (SACLANT) for the defence of the Canada-United States region in case of emergency and participates with the United States in the defence of the North American Continent through the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD).