

nuclear and conventional arms. They directed the Council in Permanent Session to undertake, with the advice of the NATO military authorities, further studies of the interrelated questions of strategy, force requirements and the resources available to meet them.

The annual Ministerial Meeting held in Paris Dec. 16 and 17, 1963, was 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 Ministers noted that there had been no major crisis since the confrontation over Cuba. They emphasized that the unity and military strength of the Alliance had contributed substantially to this result and to the international atmosphere now prevailing. At the same time the Ministers emphasized the importance not only of seeking agreement on limited measures which would help to reduce tension, but of achieving a genuine and fundamental improvement in East-West relations. They expressed the hope that Soviet policy would not limit the possibilities of making progress in this direction and of reaching solutions for the problems that are the real causes of tension in the world, in particular those of Berlin and Germany. Despite recent incidents, freedom of access to Berlin had been upheld; in this connection the Ministers reiterated their determination, as expressed in the Declaration of Dec. 16, 1958, to defend and maintain the freedom of West Berlin and its people.

The Ministers reaffirmed their determination to improve and intensify their political consultation on subjects of common concern. They also agreed on the necessity of maintaining and strengthening the defensive capability of the Alliance, having regard to the constant advances in science and technology. They reviewed the implementation of decisions reached at Ottawa regarding fuller information on nuclear questions for national authorities and broader participation by member countries in the organization and operational planning functions of SACEUR's nuclear forces. Finally, they took note of the progress achieved to give effect to the decisions made at Ottawa to pursue the study of the interrelated questions of strategy, force requirements, and the resources available to meet them.

In the economic field, the Ministers noted that the economies of the NATO countries have been expanding steadily and, in contrast to what has been happening in the communist world, the economic systems of the West have shown themselves capable of flexible adaptation to circumstances. Not only has this permitted an increase in the standards of living of their own peoples but it has also enabled large-scale assistance to be extended to the developing countries.

Canadian Contributions to NATO.—Support for NATO during 1963 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).

Since 1950, Canada has contributed approximately \$1,800,000,000 in mutual aid to European members of NATO. The aid program, consisting of contributions to NATO infrastructure and military costs, transfers of equipment to member countries and air-crew training in Canada of NATO forces, continued throughout 1963. This program has decreased in magnitude with the changing conditions and the increasing ability of the European members to meet their individual defence requirements.

Subsection 4.—Canadian External Aid Programs

The Colombo Plan.—The Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and Southeast Asia was conceived at the Commonwealth Meeting of Foreign Ministers held at Colombo, Ceylon, in January 1950. Although the Plan was initiated by Commonwealth governments, it is not exclusively a Commonwealth program. It is designed to assist in the economic development and the raising of living standards of all