

decision, while remaining within the Alliance, to withdraw from the integrated military structure. Ministers decided, in the interest of assuring continued security, to reach as soon as possible solutions acceptable to all concerned. Ministers further agreed to transfer the military headquarters from France and extended a unanimous invitation to the Benelux countries to provide new sites for SHAPE and AFCENT and to Italy to provide a new site for the NATO Defence College.

In reviewing the international situation, Ministers discussed the relations of their countries with the Soviet Union and the East European countries. They concluded that, although it was imperative for the West to maintain adequate forces for deterrence and defence, the peaceful ending of the division of Europe remained a principal purpose of the Alliance. Attention was given during the discussions to Greek-Turkish relations and Ministers welcomed the announcement by Ministers of Greece and Turkey that they were entering into contact on the Cyprus question and on Greek-Turkish relations.

The annual Ministerial meeting held in Paris on Dec. 15 and 16 was attended by a delegation led by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of National Defence. There were two dominant themes of political discussion on which there was general agreement. First, there was the recognized need to improve East-West relations and, secondly, the acceptance of the desirability of studying the future of the Alliance. The Council had before it a study of East-West relations which had already revealed that there was a substantial measure of agreement within NATO on this subject. At the opening of the meeting, the Belgian Foreign Minister submitted a resolution proposing a study of the future tasks of the Alliance in the light of developments since 1949. This proposal recalled the Canadian proposal of 1964, which was not pursued at that time for fear it might precipitate a confrontation with France. In the minds of most delegations, the proposal to study the future tasks of the Alliance was closely related to, and tended to merge with, the Council's interest in improving East-West relations. For this reason, Ministers decided to leave to the study on the future of the Alliance consideration of the possibility of developing new proposals for moving forward in the field of improving East-West relations.

An important decision of the December meeting, which reflected the recognized need to engage members as fully as possible in the nuclear affairs of the Alliance, was the establishment of a Nuclear Defence Affairs Committee and a subordinate Nuclear Planning Group. Membership in the Nuclear Defence Affairs Committee is open to all members of NATO who wish to participate. Agreement was reached on a membership of seven in the Nuclear Planning Group (which includes Canada) who were to serve 18 months. Canada supported this decision, which will broaden participation in the formulation of Alliance nuclear defence policy and may open the way to a non-proliferation agreement.

Canadian Contributions to NATO.—Support for NATO during 1966 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, including two battalions assigned to the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force. 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 \$1,860,000,000 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 aircrew training in Canada of NATO forces, continued in 1966. This program has decreased in magnitude with the changing conditions and the increasing ability of the European members to meet their individual defence requirements.