

4.6.2.4 Canada and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament

The Canadian government has long placed importance on international efforts to work for a safer world through arms control and disarmament. Canada is an active member of the UN Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD), a 26-nation negotiating body. This Committee, of which the United States and the Soviet Union are co-chairmen, represents in microcosm the world-wide concern to stop the arms race. The CCD is currently seeking a comprehensive prohibition of nuclear weapons testing including underground tests, and a ban on the research, development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons.

4.6.2.5 Canada and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

1972 was a particularly active year for the NATO Alliance in its continuing search for both military stability and political détente in Europe. As one of the founding members of the Alliance, Canada continued to play a prominent role in all its activities.

The encouraging results of the Federal Republic of Germany's *Ostpolitik* and the agreements reached between the United States and the Soviet Union on strategic arms limitation in large measure made it possible for the progress toward political détente evidenced by the initiation of two sets of East-West talks in 1972: multilateral preparatory talks for a Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and exploratory talks on possible future Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions in Central Europe. Full-scale international conferences on these subjects are expected to be convened during 1973. Throughout the preparation for these talks the North Atlantic Council and its committees continue to play a key role in developing and co-ordinating the views of individual NATO countries with respect to the principal problems under negotiation.

As part of its contribution to the collective defence of the Alliance, Canada continued to station land and air elements numbering some 5,000 men in the Federal Republic of Germany. In addition, Canadian naval units in the North Atlantic continued to be earmarked for assignment to the NATO Supreme Commander Atlantic in the event of an emergency. Canada also co-operates with the United States in the defence of the North American part of the Alliance. The North American Air Defence Command (NORAD) is an integrated command system combining air defence units from both countries. The Agreement setting up the Command has been extended for a further two-year period commencing May 12, 1973.

As a forum for Allied consultation, NATO is involved in other activities of a non-military nature. One major development has been the work of the NATO Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society which is concerned with exchanges of views and experiences of individual NATO countries regarding ecological and environmental problems. Canada has not only participated actively in this Committee, but is one of the leaders in projects dealing with pollution of inland and coastal waters.

4.6.2.6 Canada and the United States

Relations with the United States are of vital importance to Canada and constitute what is in many respects a unique phenomenon in international relations. Geography has made the two countries neighbours and community of interest has made them friends, while the demographic realities and economic patterns of today present Canada with the challenge of living distinct from but in harmony with the world's most powerful nation. The two countries are one another's best customer: Canada sells to the United States just less than three quarters of all exports and buys almost one quarter of all US exports in an exchange of goods that now totals close to \$23,000 million per year.

Co-operation in bilateral and multilateral affairs continues to demonstrate the shared interests of both countries. Both are active members of the UN and its many specialized agencies and both participate actively in NATO, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and other important international organizations. Many bilateral bodies also facilitate Canada - United States co-operation: the Ministerial Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs brings together members of the Cabinets of both countries for discussions on a wide range of problems of bilateral as well as international interest, while the Permanent Joint Board of Defence serves as an advisory body on North American defence; the International Joint Commission, which has dealt with the regulation of flows of boundary waters and the abatement of trans-boundary air and water pollution, is also responsible for administering the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement; many joint committees and agencies deal with other specialized subjects.