

for the effective conduct of military operations and the readiness of the forces to meet the commitments assigned to the department.

Canada, NATO and NORAD

20.5.2

NATO. Canada was one of the 12 original signatories of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1949. Successive Canadian governments reaffirmed the view that Canada's security remains linked to that of Europe and the United States. Canada is committed to the principle of collective defence and remains convinced of the importance of NATO's role in reducing, and eventually removing, the underlying causes of potential East-West conflict through negotiation, reconciliation and settlement.

A number of major equipment procurement decisions arising from the defence structure review of 1975 were made during 1977 and 1978, the most important of which was to purchase a new fighter aircraft to replace the outdated CF-101s, CF-104s and CF-5s, with the choice expected to be made in 1980. In December 1977, cabinet approved funds for the project definition phase leading to the acquisition in the early 1980s of six new patrol frigates.

Canada participates in the mutual and balanced force reductions negotiations in Vienna. These negotiations are generally recognized as difficult because they touch on vital security interests of both NATO and the Warsaw Pact nations. Begun in 1973, the negotiations have not yet resulted in agreement, largely because of differing perceptions of the actual size of the military forces on each side. The strategic arms limitation talks between the US and the USSR neared agreement in the latter part of 1978, and expectation was being expressed that the SALT II treaty would be signed in 1979.

Members of the alliance continue to experience, in varying degrees, the impact of severe inflation and other economic problems. Under these circumstances, particular attention has been paid to the problem of maintaining an adequate defence capability in the face of serious strains on the economies of some of the allies. Alliance members, including Canada, continue to seek economies by increasing specialization in the development, production and acquisition of military equipment to avoid costly duplication of efforts.

Canada's membership in NATO continues to be a factor in the development of its political, economic and scientific-technological relations with Europe, by which Canada seeks to balance its relations with the United States. The alliance obliges both Canada and the United States to maintain a deep interest in European affairs and exemplifies the interdependence of Europe and North America. It also provides Canada with an opportunity to consult with 14 other countries (including eight of the nine members of the European community) continuously and regularly on a variety of political and military questions.

NORAD. Canada's support of collective security is not limited to its role in NATO. Through its continuing co-operative defence arrangements with the United States it participates in aerospace surveillance and warning systems, active air defence, anti-submarine defence and measures designed to protect the deterrent capacity of the United States. (See 20.5.3.3 Air command.)

The Canadian forces

20.5.3

The Canadian forces are organized on a functional basis to reflect the major commitments assigned by the government. All forces devoted to a primary mission are grouped under a single commander. Specifically, the Canadian forces are formed into National Defence Headquarters and six major commands reporting to the chief of the defence staff.

Maritime command

20.5.3.1

All Canadian maritime forces are under the commander, maritime command, whose headquarters is in Halifax. The deputy commander is the commander, maritime forces Pacific, with headquarters in Esquimalt, BC. The role of maritime command is the surveillance and control of the sea approaches of the three oceans bordering Canada, and the provision of combat-ready ships in support of Canada's commitment to NATO